



**PERSONS NOT IN THE
LABOUR FORCE
AUSTRALIA
(including discouraged jobseekers)
SEPTEMBER 1980**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In September 1980 a survey, based on the monthly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about persons aged 15 to 64 years who were not in the labour force; in particular whether they wanted a job and, if they did, why they were not looking for work.

2. Preliminary results of the survey were published on 27 January 1981 in *Persons Not in the Labour Force, September 1980 (Preliminary), Australia* (6219.0). The present publication contains final and more detailed information. Results of similar surveys, the first conducted in November 1975, were published in previous issues of this publication.

3. The survey was based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and covered about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information was obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers, the interviews being conducted during the two weeks beginning on 8 September 1980.

Scope

4. The survey included all persons aged fifteen years and over except:

- (a) members of the permanent defence forces;
- (b) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- (c) overseas visitors holidaying in Australia; and
- (d) members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

Definitions

5. 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 *the survey week*, which is the week immediately preceding that in which the interview takes place. Definitions of the principal labour force categories appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

6. *Persons who wanted a job* are those who were not employed at the time of the survey, and:

- (a) in the four weeks before the interview 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 now?*', or
- (b) although claiming to have looked for work in the four weeks before the interview week, had not taken active steps (as defined below) to find employment.

(*Active steps to find work* include checking or registering with the Commonwealth Employment Service or other employment agencies, writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer, answering a newspaper advertisement for a job, advertising or tendering for work, contacting friends or relatives and looking on factory or employment service notice boards.)

7. *Discouraged jobseekers* are persons who wanted a job but were not actively looking for work because they believed they would not be able to find a job for any of the following reasons: they were considered by employers to be too young or too old; they had language or racial difficulties; they lacked the necessary training, skills or experience; or there were no jobs in their locality or line of work. This definition has been revised since the March 1979 survey. See paragraph 11 regarding the effect of this change.

8. Persons included in the survey who wanted a job but were not actively looking for work were asked to give reasons why they were not doing so. Reasons were ranked in the order of priority shown in Table 11; where more than one reason was given, only the higher or highest ranked has been included in the estimates in Tables 8 to 11. Table 12 includes estimates of the highest ranked reason and the second highest ranked reason (if any).

Discontinuities in the series

9. The estimates in this publication are not strictly comparable with those obtained from previous surveys. For the September 1980 survey, persons who had a job but had been away from work without pay for four weeks or more up to the end of the survey week were no longer included in the category *Had not actively looked for work*. Estimates of the numbers of persons who had a job but were away from work for four weeks or more, for the current and previous two surveys are shown in Table 2.

10. Of these persons, the numbers in September 1979 and March 1980 who were classified as *Did not want a job* or *Did not know whether wanted a job* were:

	Males	Females	Persons
September 1979	4,900	8,400	13,300
March 1980	5,900	9,000	13,900

11. In addition, estimates for March 1979 and earlier periods are not strictly comparable with those obtained from later surveys because, commencing with the September 1979 survey, the definition of *Persons who wanted a job* was widened to include those persons referred to in paragraph 6(b), i.e. persons who, although claiming to have looked for work in the four weeks before the interview week, had not taken active steps (as defined above) to find employment. Estimates of the number of such persons, including those defined as *discouraged jobseekers*, for March 1980 and earlier surveys are shown in previous issues of this publication.

Reliability of the estimates

12. 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 the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. More information on this topic is given in the Technical note, page 17.

Related publications

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly
Labour Force Experience during 1979, Australia (6206.0)
Labour Mobility, Australia, February 1980 (6209.0)
Persons Looking for Work, Australia, July 1980 (6222.0).

14. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0), which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. (See paragraph 12 above.)
- .. not applicable
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified.

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

TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER : EMPLOYMENT STATUS,
SEPTEMBER 1980

	Number (' 000)			Per cent of total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	5,372.1	5,508.9	10,881.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	4,010.0	2,315.3	6,325.3	74.6	42.0	58.1
Unemployed	211.1	194.4	405.5	3.9	3.5	3.7
Not in the labour force	1,151.0	2,999.2	4,150.2	21.4	54.4	38.1
Aged 65 years and over	525.8	789.9	1,315.7	9.8	14.3	12.1
Aged 15 to 64 years	625.2	2,209.2	2,834.5	11.6	40.1	26.0
Inmate of an institution, permanently unable to work, boarding school student	53.0	26.6	79.5	1.0	0.5	0.7
Had actively looked for work but was unable to start a job in the survey week for reasons other than own temporary illness or injury	26.2	24.3	50.6	0.5	0.4	0.5
Had a job but was away from work without pay for 4 weeks or more up to the end of the survey week(a)	7.2	17.7	24.9	0.1	0.3	0.2
Had not actively looked for work	538.8	2,140.7	2,679.5	10.0	38.9	24.6
Did not want a job	412.5	1,621.5	2,034.1	7.7	29.4	18.7
Did not know whether wanted a job	*	19.9	23.8	*	0.4	0.2
Wanted a job(b)	122.5	499.2	621.7	2.3	9.1	5.7
Had taken only non-active steps to find a job	9.6	38.4	48.0	0.2	0.7	0.4
Had taken no steps at all to find a job	112.8	460.8	573.6	2.2	8.4	5.3
Would have liked a job	98.1	384.4	482.5	1.8	7.0	4.4
Might have liked a job	14.8	76.3	91.1	0.3	1.4	0.8
Discouraged(c)	9.9	63.8	73.7	0.2	1.2	0.7
Had other reasons for not actively looking for work(c)	112.6	435.4	548.0	2.1	7.9	5.0

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 9. (b) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 6. (c) See Table 11.

TABLE 2 : PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : SUMMARY, SEPTEMBER 1979, MARCH 1980 AND SEPTEMBER 1980 (' 000)

	September 1979			March 1980			September 1980(a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Not in the labour force aged 15 to 64 years	628.8	2,263.2	2,892.0	624.0	2,207.2	2,831.2	625.2	2,209.2	2,834.5
Inmates of institutions, permanently unable to work, boarding school students	56.9	34.4	91.4	49.7	32.8	82.5	53.0	26.6	79.5
Had actively looked for work but was unable to start a job in survey week for reasons other than own temporary illness or injury	26.0	27.9	53.8	8.8	12.6	21.3	26.2	24.3	50.6
Had a job but was away from work without pay for 4 weeks or more up to the end of the survey week	(b)6.6	(b)11.7	(b)18.3	(b)7.1	(b)11.5	(b)18.6	7.2	17.7	24.9
Had not actively looked for work	546.0	2,200.9	2,746.9	565.5	2,161.9	2,727.4	538.8	2,140.7	2,679.5
Did not want a job	423.8	1,689.9	2,113.7	446.8	1,674.0	2,120.9	412.5	1,621.5	2,034.1
Did not know whether wanted a job	*	20.5	23.2	8.6	21.9	30.4	*	19.9	23.8
Wanted a job(c)	119.4	490.5	609.9	110.1	466.0	576.1	122.5	499.2	621.7
Had taken only non-active steps to find a job	9.1	33.4	42.5	12.9	39.4	52.3	9.6	38.4	48.0
Had taken no steps to find a job	110.3	457.1	567.4	97.2	426.6	523.8	113.8	460.8	573.6
Would have liked a job	92.8	386.4	479.2	85.7	373.1	458.9	98.1	384.4	482.5
Might have liked a job	17.5	70.8	88.3	11.4	53.5	64.9	14.8	76.3	91.1
<i>Discouraged(d)</i>	8.6	65.4	74.0	9.9	66.1	76.0	9.9	63.8	73.7
<i>Had other reasons for not actively looking for work(d)</i>	110.9	425.1	535.9	100.2	399.9	500.1	112.6	435.4	548.0

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 9 and 10 regarding comparability of the September 1980 estimates with estimates from earlier surveys. (b) Included in estimates of persons who had not actively looked for work. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 9 and 10. (c) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 6. (d) See Table 11.

TABLE 3. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a) : OCCUPATION IN LAST REGULAR JOB (IF ANY) AND AGE, SEPTEMBER 1980 (' 000)

Occupation in last regular job(b)	Age group (years)							Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	
MALES								
Professional and technical	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.2	21.4
Administrative, executive and managerial	*	*	*	*	7.9	—	11.0	21.5
Clerical workers	*	*	*	*	*	5.6	11.0	27.9
Sales workers	10.5	*	*	*	*	*	5.7	27.7
Farmers, fishermen, timbergetters, etc	5.0	*	*	*	7.9	—	10.2	27.5
Transport and communication	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.5	23.6
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers n.e.c. and miners, etc.	14.3	13.9	11.1	12.6	24.4	18.0	59.3	153.7
Service, sport and recreation	*	4.8	—	*	7.7	—	9.1	27.9
Had not worked in the last 10 years	*	*	*	*	6.1	5.0	9.0	22.8
Never had a regular job	166.1	12.3	*	*	*	*	*	184.9
Total	204.5	42.8	27.2	28.1	54.0	48.8	133.4	538.8
FEMALES								
Professional and technical	*	12.1	54.8	23.8	11.3	7.1	8.9	119.5
Administrative, executive and managerial	*	*	4.5	*	6.5	*	4.8	23.7
Clerical workers	9.8	44.6	175.1	43.4	30.3	19.5	19.8	342.6
Sales workers	18.1	29.4	60.9	26.0	26.2	18.1	14.2	193.0
Farmers, etc	5.5	—	5.9	6.2	6.9	*	*	32.4
Transport and communication	*	*	10.6	5.6	5.4	—	*	26.2
Tradeswomen, production-process workers and labourers n.e.c. and miners, etc.	6.4	27.8	65.1	37.6	37.5	24.0	15.5	214.0
Service, sport and recreation	7.8	26.2	73.4	38.1	47.0	31.4	26.4	250.4
Had not worked in last 10 years	*	*	60.6	144.8	180.5	115.7	133.3	635.1
Never had a regular job	176.1	15.3	18.1	16.9	22.6	23.9	30.8	303.8
Total	222.4	161.7	528.8	345.7	372.6	249.9	259.5	2,140.7
PERSONS								
Professional and technical	*	15.9	57.5	25.4	12.4	9.4	18.1	140.9
Administrative, executive and managerial	*	*	5.6	4.7	10.3	8.3	15.7	45.2
Clerical workers	12.4	48.3	176.8	44.2	32.8	25.1	30.8	370.5
Sales workers	28.6	31.8	62.2	27.9	29.6	20.6	20.0	220.6
Farmers, fishermen, timbergetters, etc.	7.2	5.6	6.3	7.8	10.6	8.4	13.9	59.9
Transport and communication	4.7	—	13.8	8.8	7.7	*	10.5	49.8
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers n.e.c. and miners, etc.	20.8	41.8	76.2	50.2	61.9	42.0	74.8	367.7
Service, sport and recreation	12.2	29.4	75.1	39.9	50.9	35.2	35.6	278.2
Had not worked in last 10 years	*	*	62.0	146.2	186.6	120.7	142.4	657.9
Never had a regular job	342.2	27.6	20.7	18.6	23.8	24.7	31.1	488.7
Total	426.9	204.5	556.1	373.9	426.6	298.7	393.0	2,679.5

(a) Excluding inmates of institutions, persons permanently unable to work, boarding school students, persons who had actively looked for work but were unable to start work in survey week for reasons other than their own illness or injury, and persons who had a job but who were away from work without pay for four weeks or more up to the end of survey week. See Tables 1 and 2 for estimates of the number of these persons. (b) Lasting two weeks or more. Occupation was obtained only for persons who had worked in the last 10 years.

TABLE 4. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a) : WHETHER WANTED A JOB AND WHETHER INTENDING TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, SEPTEMBER 1980 (' 000)

<i>Whether would like a job or not</i>	<i>Intention to look for work in the next twelve months</i>					<i>Total</i>
	<i>Intending to look</i>	<i>Might look</i>	<i>Would not look</i>	<i>Did not know</i>	<i>Had a job to go to</i>	
MALES						
Yes	66.3	13.0	20.6	*	5.3	107.7
Maybe	*	6.2	*	*	*	14.8
No	65.6	27.7	309.6	9.7	..	412.5
Did not know	*	*	*	*	..	*
<i>Total</i>	<i>136.3</i>	<i>47.2</i>	<i>335.8</i>	<i>14.1</i>	<i>5.4</i>	<i>538.8</i>
FEMALES						
Yes	182.7	76.5	133.2	21.7	8.7	422.9
Maybe	13.3	20.8	37.4	4.7	*	76.3
No	94.1	67.9	1,434.1	25.5	..	1,621.5
Did not know	*	*	9.5	*	..	19.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>292.7</i>	<i>169.2</i>	<i>1,614.1</i>	<i>55.8</i>	<i>8.9</i>	<i>2,140.7</i>
PERSONS						
Yes	249.0	89.5	153.8	24.3	14.0	530.6
Maybe	17.3	27.0	41.4	5.0	*	91.1
No	159.6	95.6	1,743.6	35.2	..	2,034.1
Did not know	*	*	11.1	5.4	..	23.8
Total	429.0	216.4	1,949.9	69.9	14.3	2,679.5

(a) See footnote(a), Table 3.

TABLE 5. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a) : BIRTHPLACE, WHETHER WANTED A JOB AND WHETHER INTENDING TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, SEPTEMBER 1980 (' 000)

	<i>Born overseas</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Born in Australia</i>	<i>Main English-speaking countries(b)</i>	<i>Other countries</i>	
<i>Whether would like a job or not—</i>				
Yes	380.3	60.9	89.4	530.6
Maybe	68.4	10.3	12.4	91.1
No	1,574.8	175.8	283.5	2,034.1
Did not know	17.5	*	4.8	23.8
<i>Intention to look for work in the next twelve months—</i>				
Intending to look	316.4	45.3	67.4	429.0
Might look	152.1	21.1	43.2	216.4
Would not look	1,511.9	173.4	264.5	1,949.9
Did not know	49.5	6.9	13.5	69.9
Had a job to go to	11.0	*	*	14.3
Total	2,041.0	248.4	390.1	2,679.5

(a) See footnote(a), Table 3. (b) Comprises the U.K., Ireland, Canada, U.S.A., New Zealand and South Africa.

TABLE 6. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE^(a) AND WHO HAD HAD A REGULAR JOB : TIME SINCE LAST REGULAR JOB^(b) AND REASON FOR LEAVING IT, SEPTEMBER 1980 ('000)

Reason for leaving last regular job	Time since last regular job							Total
	Under 6 months	6 months and under 1 year	1 year and under 3 years	3 years and under 5 years	5 years and under 10 years	10 years and under 20 years	20 years and over	
MALES								
Dismissed, retrenched	6.2	*	9.7	5.9	*	*	*	29.0
Seasonal/temporary job, returned to studies	14.1	37.0	12.4	*	*	*	*	67.9
Retired/did not want to work any longer	12.3	9.7	29.6	19.5	5.8	*	*	78.9
Own ill health or injury	10.2	12.3	41.0	36.6	32.7	15.8	*	150.9
Other reasons	10.1	*	6.5	4.8		*	*	27.2
Total	52.7	66.2	99.2	68.1	45.0	18.8	*	353.9
FEMALES								
Dismissed, retrenched	14.0	11.5	27.0	24.6	25.3	9.8	5.9	118.1
Seasonal/temporary job, returned to studies	35.0	42.7	31.7	16.4	15.1	11.2	5.0	157.1
Retired/did not want to work any longer	18.7	15.6	43.1	36.7	47.7	41.0	13.1	215.8
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	8.4	6.0	11.1	6.9	9.4	*	*	44.6
Own ill health or injury	11.7	11.4	33.6	31.2	39.8	27.9	8.4	164.1
Left to get married	*	*	10.9	12.9	36.0	80.9	210.2	355.9
Pregnancy/to have children	23.2	31.4	88.2	72.4	127.2	90.7	52.8	485.9
To look after family or other persons	10.2	11.0	20.4	23.0	31.4	27.2	18.3	141.4
Travel, changed residence, spouse transferred	12.3	11.5	23.6	18.8	27.3	16.1	7.2	116.8
Other reasons	5.6	*	9.2	*	7.8	6.5		37.2
Total	141.6	147.8	298.8	246.7	366.9	310.6	324.6	1,836.9
PERSONS								
Dismissed, retrenched	20.2	14.3	36.8	30.5	29.1	10.2	6.1	147.2
Seasonal/temporary job, returned to studies	49.1	79.7	44.1	19.5	16.1	11.3	5.3	225.0
Retired/did not want to work any longer	30.9	25.3	72.6	56.1	53.4	42.6	13.7	294.7
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	10.9	7.3	12.8	7.5	9.9	*	*	51.5
Own ill health or injury	21.9	23.8	74.6	67.9	72.5	43.7	10.7	315.0
Left to get married	*	*	10.9	12.9	36.0	80.9	210.6	356.3
Pregnancy/to have children	23.2	31.4	88.2	72.4	127.3	91.0	52.9	486.4
To look after family or other persons	11.0	11.6	22.1	24.5	31.6	27.2	18.4	146.3
Travel, changed residence, spouse transferred	15.8	12.7	25.6	19.2	28.1	16.4	7.2	125.1
Other reasons	9.0	5.3	10.2	*	8.0	6.6		43.4
Total	194.3	214.0	397.9	314.8	411.9	329.4	328.5	2,190.8

(a) See footnote(a), Table 3. (b) Lasting two weeks or more.

TABLE 7. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a) AND WHO WERE INTENDING TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS(b) : AGE AND WHETHER PREFERRED TO WORK FULL TIME OR PART TIME, SEPTEMBER 1980 (' 000)

Whether preferred to work full time or part time	Age group (years)							Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	
MALES								
Preferred to work full time	66.4	17.2	10.9	8.8	8.7	*	*	116.5
Preferred to work part time	34.1	6.1	7.2	—	5.0	*	7.1	62.5
<i>Total(c)</i>	102.0	24.0	15.6	12.1	14.3	5.3	10.2	183.5
MARRIED FEMALES(d)								
Preferred to work full time	*	6.7	15.0	7.4	5.1	*	*	38.1
Preferred to work part time	*	25.3	100.8	64.1	32.7	11.2	*	239.8
<i>Total(c)</i>	5.8	33.6	120.0	75.7	41.3	13.9	*	293.5
OTHER FEMALES								
Preferred to work full time	56.2	16.7	5.2	—	4.9	—	*	83.4
Preferred to work part time	39.0	8.4	10.8	7.6	6.1	*	*	79.8
<i>Total(c)</i>	97.5	25.4	16.5	10.6	9.0	5.4	*	168.4
ALL FEMALES								
Preferred to work full time	58.3	23.4	20.1	9.5	7.1	*	*	121.5
Preferred to work part time	42.4	33.8	111.6	71.7	38.8	15.6	5.8	319.6
No preference	—	4.5	4.7	5.2	—	5.8	*	20.8
<i>Total</i>	103.3	59.0	136.4	86.4	50.3	19.3	7.2	461.9
PERSONS								
Preferred to work full time	124.7	40.5	31.1	18.2	15.8	4.6	*	238.0
Preferred to work part time	76.5	39.9	115.9	74.6	43.8	18.5	12.9	382.1
No preference	—	6.7	5.1	5.6	5.0	*	*	25.3
Total	205.3	83.0	152.1	98.5	64.6	24.6	17.4	645.4

(a) See footnote(a), Table 3. (b) Includes persons who stated that they might look for work in the next twelve months. (c) Includes persons who did not state a preference. (d) Includes permanently separated.

TABLE 8. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a) AND WHO WANTED A JOB : REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK(b) AND WHETHER INTENDING TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, SEPTEMBER 1980 (' 000)

Reason for not actively looking for work	Intention to look for work in the next twelve months				Total		
	Intending to look	Might look	Would not look	Did not know	Males	Females	Persons
Had a job to go to	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	5.4	8.9	14.3
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	35.9	20.9	28.4	*	33.8	55.1	88.9
Attending an educational institution	80.4	14.5	21.8	*	56.0	63.9	119.9
Had no need to work	12.4	14.5	26.6	*	5.7	51.0	56.8
Family considerations(d)	69.7	44.0	89.3	12.2	*	211.5	215.2
Ill health of other than self	5.0	*	*	*	*	12.7	13.7
Unable to find child care	11.8	6.2	9.6	*	*	28.6	29.4
Preferred to look after children	38.7	24.3	59.4	7.8	*	129.3	130.2
Other family considerations	13.4	8.5	12.1	*	*	34.5	35.3
Discouraged	36.7	15.1	17.6	*	9.9	63.8	73.7
Considered too young or too old by employers	7.5	*	5.4	*	*	14.2	17.5
Language or racial difficulties, lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	6.0	*	*	*	*	9.5	11.6
No jobs in locality or line of work	23.2	10.0	9.9	*	4.5	40.1	44.6
No jobs in suitable hours	6.0	*	*	*	*	11.2	11.9
Other reasons(e)	25.2	4.9	8.7	*	7.3	33.7	41.0
Total							
Males	70.3	19.2	24.7	*	122.5	..	..
Females	196.0	97.4	170.5	26.4	..	499.2	..
Persons	266.3	116.6	195.2	29.3	..	..	621.7

(a) See footnote(a), Table 3. (b) Highest ranked reason only. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (c) Intention to look for work in the next twelve months was not asked of persons who were not looking for work because they already had a job to go to. (d) Includes 6,400 females whose spouses disapproved of their taking a job. (e) Includes 6,500 persons who gave no reason.

TABLE 9. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a) AND WHO WANTED A JOB : AGE AND REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK(b) SEPTEMBER 1980 (' 000)

Reason for not actively looking for work	Age group (years)							Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	
MALES								
Personal considerations	50.3	8.2	7.8	6.1	10.1	4.7	8.3	95.5
Discouraged	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.9
Total(c)(d)	58.1	11.0	12.3	9.6	13.1	6.3	12.0	122.5
FEMALES								
Had a job to go to	*	*	5.2		*	*	*	8.9
Personal considerations	57.2	12.0	26.2	25.5	29.5	14.2	5.6	170.1
Family considerations	*	28.4	104.0	45.5	22.1	4.6	*	211.5
Discouraged(c)		6.4	12.7	17.8	15.1	7.9	*	63.8
Considered too young or too old	*	*	*	*	4.9	6.1		14.2
No jobs in locality or line of work		4.6	9.8	12.6	8.3	4.7		40.1
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	5.0	*	*	*	*	11.2
Other reasons(d)		5.9	9.0	8.6	5.4	4.8		33.7
Total	68.6	48.7	160.6	102.0	74.5	31.2	13.6	499.2
PERSONS								
Had a job to go to	*	*	5.4		4.6		*	14.3
Personal considerations	107.6	20.1	34.0	31.6	39.6	18.8	13.9	265.6
Family considerations	*	28.4	104.9	47.5	22.8	4.9	*	215.2
Discouraged(c)	6.8	*	13.7	18.4	16.8	8.0	6.1	73.7
Considered too young or too old	*	*	*	*	5.7	*	4.6	17.5
No jobs in locality or line of work		6.6	10.9	13.0	9.0	5.1		44.6
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	5.0	*	*	*	*	11.9
Other reasons(d)	4.5	4.6	10.0	9.8	5.8	6.3		41.0
Total	126.7	59.7	173.0	111.6	87.6	37.5	25.6	621.7

(a) See footnote(a), Table 3. (b) Highest ranked reason only. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (c) Includes reasons not shown separately. (d) Includes persons who gave no reason.

TABLE 10. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a) AND WHO WANTED A JOB : REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK(b), STATES, SEPTEMBER 1980
(* 000)

<i>Reason for not actively looking for work</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.(c)</i>
MALES								
Own ill health or physical disability	11.6	10.0	5.0	2.5	3.0	*	*	33.8
Attending an educational institution	20.7	14.9	6.2	4.6	5.3	*	2.1	56.0
<i>Total(d)</i>	<i>41.5</i>	<i>33.7</i>	<i>17.6</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>122.5</i>
FEMALES								
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	18.7	16.0	8.1	4.8	4.8	1.5	*	55.1
Attending an educational institution	19.8	22.0	7.5	5.9	5.8	*	*	63.9
Had no need to work	16.0	11.4	9.4	5.6	5.0	2.4	*	51.0
Family considerations(d)	74.4	57.0	31.8	16.4	20.2	6.6	3.6	211.5
Unable to find child care	8.8	9.5	4.2	*	2.8	*	*	28.6
Preferred to look after children	46.6	32.8	19.0	11.0	13.2	3.7	2.2	129.3
Discouraged(d)	23.4	17.6	8.0	5.3	6.0	1.9	*	63.8
No jobs in locality or line of work	15.4	11.0	6.2	2.5	3.6	1.5	*	40.1
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	11.2
Other reasons(e)	14.2	11.4	6.7	4.3	3.3	*	*	42.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>170.3</i>	<i>139.3</i>	<i>72.9</i>	<i>43.3</i>	<i>46.2</i>	<i>15.0</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>499.2</i>
PERSONS								
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	30.3	25.9	13.1	7.3	7.8	2.7	*	88.9
Attending an educational institution	40.5	36.9	13.7	10.5	11.1	3.2	3.1	119.9
Had no need to work	17.4	12.6	10.7	6.5	5.6	2.6	*	56.8
Family considerations(d)	74.8	58.0	32.5	16.8	20.9	7.0	3.6	215.2
Unable to find child care	9.0	9.5	4.5	*	2.8	*	*	29.4
Preferred to look after children	46.6	33.0	19.1	11.2	13.4	3.8	2.2	130.2
Discouraged(d)	26.1	21.5	9.1	6.6	6.3	2.2	*	73.7
No jobs in locality or line of work	16.5	12.5	7.0	3.0	3.7	1.6	*	44.6
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	11.9
Other reasons(f)	18.7	13.7	10.1	4.7	5.0	1.5	*	55.3
Total	211.8	173.0	90.5	53.4	57.7	19.5	10.8	621.7

(a) See footnote(a), Table 3. (b) Highest ranked reason only. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (c) Includes the Northern Territory. (d) Includes reasons not shown separately. (e) Includes 8,900 females who had a job to go to and 5,500 females who gave no reason. (f) Includes 14,300 persons who had a job to go to and 6,500 persons who gave no reason.

TABLE 11. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a) AND WHO WANTED A JOB :
BIRTHPLACE AND REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK(b), SEPTEMBER 1980
(' 000)

Reason for not actively looking for work	Born overseas						Total	Total
	Born in Australia	Period of arrival			Birthplace			
		Before 1961	1961- 1970	1971- 1980	Main English speaking countries (c)	Other countries		
FEMALES								
Had a job to go to	6.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.9
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	35.6	8.6	7.5	*	7.5	12.0	19.5	55.1
Attending an educational institution	52.9	*	5.9	*	6.1	5.0	11.1	63.9
Had no need to work	39.6	7.1	*	*	7.5	*	11.4	51.0
Family considerations	150.8	21.4	21.6	17.8	22.3	38.5	60.8	211.5
Ill health of other than self	8.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	12.7
Unable to find child care	21.2	—	4.6	—	*	5.8	7.4	28.6
Preferred to look after children	91.0	11.5	15.7	11.1	14.9	23.4	38.3	129.3
Husband disapproved	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.4
Other family considerations	25.7	5.1	*	*	*	5.2	8.7	34.5
Discouraged	41.6	8.3	7.5	6.3	8.1	14.1	22.2	63.8
Considered too young or too old by employers	8.5	—	4.8	—	*	*	5.7	14.2
Language or racial difficulties, lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	*	*	—	5.2	*	5.9	6.4	9.5
No jobs in locality or line of work	30.0	*	4.5	*	4.6	5.5	10.1	40.1
No jobs in suitable hours	6.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	11.2
Other reasons(d)	23.7	—	7.4	—	4.5	5.4	10.0	33.7
Total	357.6	52.1	51.9	37.6	59.3	82.3	141.6	499.2
PERSONS								
Had a job to go to	11.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	14.3
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	59.2	13.2	11.5	5.0	10.3	19.4	29.7	88.9
Attending an educational institution	97.7	*	10.2	11.0	10.3	11.9	22.2	119.9
Had no need to work	43.3	8.5	*	*	8.7	4.7	13.4	56.8
Family considerations	152.9	22.1	21.9	18.2	22.6	39.6	62.2	215.2
Ill health of other than self	9.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	13.7
Unable to find child care	21.9	—	4.7	—	*	5.9	7.5	29.4
Preferred to look after children	91.6	11.5	15.8	11.4	15.1	23.6	38.6	130.2
Spouse disapproved	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.6
Other family considerations	26.1	5.5	*	*	*	5.5	9.2	35.3
Discouraged	47.7	9.6	8.2	8.2	10.2	15.8	26.0	73.7
Considered too young or too old by employers	9.9	—	6.2	—	*	*	7.6	17.5
Language or racial difficulties, lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	*	*	—	5.7	*	6.7	7.1	11.6
No jobs in locality or line of work	33.4	*	4.5	*	5.6	5.7	11.2	44.6
No jobs in suitable hours	7.5	*	*	*	*	*	4.5	11.9
Other reasons(d)	29.4	*	4.5	*	5.2	6.4	11.6	41.0
Total	448.7	61.2	61.8	50.0	71.2	101.7	172.9	621.7

(a) See footnote(a), Table 3. (b) Highest ranked reason only. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (c) Comprises the U.K., Ireland, Canada, U.S.A., New Zealand and South Africa. (d) Includes persons who gave no reason.

TABLE 12. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a) AND WHO WANTED A JOB: HIGHEST RANKED REASON AND SECOND REASON (IF ANY) FOR NOT LOOKING FOR WORK(b), SEPTEMBER 1980 ('000)

Highest-ranked reason for not looking for work	Second reason for not looking for work							Total
	Family considerations			No jobs in locality or line of work	No jobs in suitable hours	Total(c)	No second reason given	
	Preferred to look after children	Spouse dis-approved	Total(c)					
FEMALES								
Had a job to go to	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.8	8.9
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	*	*	8.9	*	*	15.2	40.0	55.1
Attending an educational institution	*	*	*	*	*	9.8	54.2	63.9
Had no need to work	7.0	*	12.9	*	*	21.2	29.8	51.0
Family considerations	11.9	*	26.3	13.2	8.3	56.8	154.7	211.5
Unable to find child care	10.0	*	11.0	*	*	16.0	12.5	28.6
Preferred to look after children	..	*	11.0	6.6	5.6	26.5	102.8	129.3
Other family considerations	..	*	*	6.2	*	14.2	39.4	53.7
Discouraged(c)	..	..	..	6.8	7.6	21.9	41.9	63.8
No jobs in locality or line of work	..	..	..	..	6.3	9.8	30.3	40.1
Other reasons(d)	..	..	..	..	..	*	43.6	44.9
Total	23.0	5.9	50.9	25.9	19.6	126.2	373.0	499.2
PERSONS								
Had a job to go to	*	*	*	*	*	*	13.6	14.3
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	*	*	9.4	*	*	20.5	68.5	88.9
Attending an educational institution	*	*	*	*	*	19.0	100.9	119.9
Had no need to work	7.0	*	13.4	*	*	22.8	33.9	56.8
Family considerations	12.1	*	26.6	13.3	8.4	57.7	157.5	215.2
Unable to find child care	10.3	*	11.3	*	*	16.4	13.0	29.4
Preferred to look after children	..	*	11.1	6.6	5.6	26.7	103.5	130.2
Other family considerations	..	*	*	6.2	*	14.6	40.9	55.5
Discouraged(c)	..	..	..	8.4	8.1	26.1	47.6	73.7
No jobs in locality or line of work	..	..	..	..	6.5	10.8	33.8	44.6
Other reasons(d)	..	..	..	..	..	*	51.2	52.9
Total	23.3	5.9	52.5	32.5	22.0	148.5	473.1	621.7

(a) See footnote(a), Table 3. (b) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (c) Includes reasons not shown separately. (d) Includes persons who gave no reason and persons who answered 'No jobs in suitable hours'.

TABLE 13. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE^(a) AND WHO WANTED A JOB: AGE AND WHETHER PREFERRED TO WORK FULL TIME OR PART TIME, SEPTEMBER 1980 (' 000)

Whether preferred to work full time or part time	Age group (years)							Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	
MALES								
Preferred to work full time	28.2	5.3	6.6	5.1	6.6	*	*	56.2
Preferred to work part time	25.8	7.9		*	5.4	*	8.8	54.3
<i>Total(b)(c)</i>	58.1	11.0	12.3	9.6	13.1	6.3	12.0	122.5
MARRIED FEMALES(d)								
Preferred to work full time	*	5.9	13.4	6.2	6.1	*	*	34.4
Preferred to work part time	*	27.5	122.9	78.9	51.5	18.6	6.5	309.3
No preference	*	*	5.1	5.1	4.6	*	*	19.3
<i>Total(c)</i>	4.5	36.4	146.4	91.6	63.4	22.5	7.8	372.6
OTHER FEMALES								
Preferred to work full time	27.5	5.8	4.7	*	*	*	*	41.6
Preferred to work part time	32.5	5.9	9.8	7.2	7.5	7.1	*	74.2
<i>Total (b)(c)</i>	64.1	12.3	14.2	10.4	11.1	8.7	5.8	126.6
ALL FEMALES								
Preferred to work full time	28.3	11.7	16.4	7.8	8.1	*	*	76.0
Preferred to work part time	35.9	33.4	132.7	86.2	59.0	25.7	10.6	383.4
No preference	6.2		6.1	6.6	6.0	*	*	28.0
<i>Total(c)</i>	68.6	48.7	160.6	102.0	74.5	31.2	13.6	499.2
PERSONS								
Preferred to work full time	56.5	17.0	23.0	13.0	14.7	*	*	132.2
Preferred to work part time	61.7	37.7	136.4	89.1	64.4	29.2	19.4	437.8
No preference	5.3	*	6.7	7.3	6.8	*	*	33.0
Not asked(c)	5.1		6.9	*	4.5			18.6
Total	126.7	59.7	173.0	111.6	87.6	37.5	25.6	621.7

(a) See footnote(a), Table 3. (b) Includes persons who did not state a preference. (c) Includes persons who had a job to go to and a small number of persons who took only non-active steps to find work. These persons were not asked whether they preferred full-time or part-time work. (d) Includes permanently separated.

TABLE 14. DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS : SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, SEPTEMBER 1980

	Females		Persons	
	(' 000)		(per cent)	
Total	63.8	73.7	100.0	100.0
Marital status—				
Married(a)	53.8	58.5	84.3	79.4
Not married	10.0	15.2	15.7	20.6
Age (years)—				
15-19	*	6.8	*	9.2
20-24	*	*	*	*
25-34	12.6	13.7	19.8	18.6
35-44	17.8	18.4	28.0	25.0
45-54	15.1	16.8	23.7	22.8
55-64	11.8	14.1	18.5	19.2
Place of residence—				
New South Wales	23.4	26.1	36.7	35.4
Victoria	17.6	21.5	27.6	29.2
Queensland	8.0	9.1	12.6	12.4
South Australia	5.3	6.6	8.3	8.9
Western Australia	6.0	6.3	9.4	8.5
Tasmania	1.9	2.2	3.0	3.0
Six State capital cities	34.9	41.2	54.7	55.8
Other areas(b)	28.9	32.6	45.3	44.2
Birthplace—				
Australia	41.6	47.7	65.3	64.8
Main English-speaking countries(c)	8.1	10.2	12.6	13.8
Other countries	14.1	15.8	22.1	21.4
Had looked for work in the last 12 months	24.5	31.7	38.4	43.0
Had not looked for work in the last 12 months	39.1	41.8	61.2	56.7
Had never had a regular job	4.5	7.2	7.1	9.8
Had had a regular job	59.3	66.5	92.9	90.2
Time since last regular job—				
Under 6 months	5.3	6.9	8.4	9.4
6 months and under 1 year	6.5	7.9	10.2	10.7
1 year and under 3 years	13.5	16.9	21.2	22.9
3 years and under 10 years	20.8	21.6	32.5	29.3
10 years and under 20 years	8.5	8.5	13.4	11.6
20 years or more	4.7	4.7	7.3	6.3
Reason for leaving last regular job—				
Dismissed, retrenched	12.4	16.3	19.5	22.2
Seasonal/temporary; returned to studies	5.9	5.9	9.2	7.9
Retired, did not need to work any longer	*	*	*	*
Own ill health or injury	*	5.2	*	7.1
Family considerations	18.6	18.6	29.1	25.2
Left to get married	5.7	5.7	8.9	7.7
Left to have children	7.8	7.8	12.3	10.6
Other family considerations	5.1	5.1	8.0	6.9
Travel, changed residence, spouse transferred	8.7	9.3	13.7	12.6
Other reasons(d)	7.0	8.0	10.9	10.9

(a) Includes permanently separated. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Comprises the U.K., Ireland, Canada, U.S.A., New Zealand and South Africa. (d) Includes 4,500 persons whose reason was unsatisfactory work arrangements.

TABLE 15. DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS : STATES AND STATE CAPITAL CITIES, SEPTEMBER 1980 (' 000)

	Females		Persons	
	Married(a)	Total	Married(a)	Total
STATES				
New South Wales	19.9	23.4	20.6	26.1
Victoria	15.2	17.6	17.2	21.5
Queensland	6.2	8.0	7.0	9.1
South Australia	4.4	5.3	5.0	6.6
Western Australia	5.3	6.0	5.4	6.3
Tasmania	*	1.9	1.6	2.2
Australia(b)	53.8	63.8	58.5	73.7
STATE CAPITAL CITIES				
Sydney	10.3	11.7	10.7	12.9
Melbourne	9.3	10.4	11.0	13.8
Brisbane	*	3.8	*	4.1
Adelaide	3.8	4.4	4.3	5.3
Perth	3.5	4.0	3.6	4.3
Total(c)	30.6	34.9	33.7	41.2

(a) Includes permanently separated. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Hobart.

TABLE 16. DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS: AGE AND REASON FOR BELIEVING NO WORK AVAILABLE(a), SEPTEMBER 1980 (' 000)

Reason for believing no work available	Age group (years)					Total
	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	
Considered too young or too old by employers	*	*	*	5.7	7.9	17.5
Language or racial difficulties, lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	5.4		5.1		*	11.6
No jobs in locality or line of work	*	13.4	13.0	9.0	5.1	44.6
Total	6.8	17.6	18.4	16.8	14.1	73.7

(a) Highest-ranked reason only. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8.

TABLE 17. FEMALES AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a) AND WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE: WHETHER WANTED A JOB, NUMBER AND AGE OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM RESPONSIBLE, SEPTEMBER 1980 (' 000)

Number and age of children for whom responsible		Wanted a job			Total
Under 6 years	6-11 years	If child care available(b)	Other(c)	Did not want a job(d)	
None	1	7.9	44.8	95.6	148.4
	2	7.9	33.1	56.4	97.5
	3 or more	*	9.2	12.2	24.2
	Total	18.7	87.1	164.3	270.1
1	None	24.8	41.5	114.2	180.5
	1	16.0	35.3	60.2	111.6
	2	5.0	17.0	35.9	57.9
	3 or more	*	*	6.7	10.4
Total	46.8	96.6	216.9	360.3	
2	None	23.0	31.8	92.1	146.9
	1	9.0	9.7	27.8	46.5
	2 or more	*	4.8	14.1	21.3
	Total	34.4	46.2	134.0	214.6
3 or more	None	4.9	*	19.4	28.7
	Total	7.1	6.3	26.2	39.6
Total	None	52.6	77.7	225.7	356.1
	1	35.0	91.2	187.4	313.5
	2	14.4	53.7	106.1	174.3
	3 or more	4.9	13.5	22.3	40.7
	Total	106.9	236.2	541.4	884.6

(a) See footnote(a), Table 3. (b) Comprises 95,100 females who initially stated that they would not like a job or did not know whether they would, but later stated that they would or might like a job if they had suitable child care arrangements for all their children under 12 years of age, and 11,900 females (5,900 responsible only for children under 6 years of age) who stated that they would or might like a job and whose *only reason* for not looking for work was that they were unable to find child care. (c) Comprises females who would or might have liked a job and whose reasons for not looking for work either did not include lack of suitable child care arrangements or included some other reason in conjunction with lack of suitable child care arrangements. (d) Comprises females who would not have liked a job or did not know whether they would, even if suitable child care arrangements were available.

TABLE 18. FEMALES AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a), WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE AND WOULD HAVE WANTED A JOB IF CHILD CARE HAD BEEN AVAILABLE(b) : SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, SEPTEMBER 1980 (' 000)

	<i>Responsible only for—</i>		<i>Responsible for children aged 0-5 years and 6-11 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Children aged 0-5 years</i>	<i>Children aged 6-11 years</i>		
Total	52.6	18.7	35.6	106.9
Age of female responsible (years)—				
15-24	19.3	*	*	21.5
25-34	29.5	7.2	25.8	62.6
35 and over	*	10.9	8.2	22.9
Marital status—				
Married(c)	46.9	15.5	32.8	95.2
Not married	5.8	*	*	11.8
Place of residence—				
New South Wales	19.8	6.0	12.7	38.5
Sydney	13.7	*	7.6	24.4
Other	6.1	*	5.1	14.1
Victoria	11.9	5.7	9.2	26.8
Melbourne	8.7	4.8	5.7	19.2
Other	*	*	*	7.6
Queensland	8.2	3.4	5.9	17.5
Brisbane	*	*	*	7.9
Other	4.9	*	*	9.5
South Australia	4.5	*	3.0	8.7
Adelaide	3.1	*	*	5.9
Other	*	*	*	2.7
Western Australia	5.1	*	3.7	10.5
Perth	3.8	*	3.0	7.7
Other	*	*	*	2.8
Tasmania	1.7	*	*	3.0
Total Six State capital cities	32.9	11.2	21.9	66.0
Total other areas(d)	19.7	7.5	13.8	41.0
Birthplace—				
Australia	40.4	13.7	25.7	79.8
Overseas	12.2	5.0	9.9	27.1
Main English-speaking countries(e)	5.3	*	*	10.1
Other overseas countries	6.9	*	6.3	17.1
Period of arrival—				
Before 1961	*	*	*	8.5
1961 to 1970	*	*	*	9.5
1971 to September 1980	5.2	*	*	9.2
Preferred work arrangements—				
Full-time work	6.4	*	*	11.5
Part-time work	42.8	16.1	31.1	90.0
No preference	*	*	*	5.5

(a) See footnote(a), Table 3. (b) See footnote(b) to Table 17. (c) Includes permanently separated. (d) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (e) Comprises the U.K., Ireland, Canada, U.S.A., New Zealand and South Africa.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Estimation procedure

The estimates are derived from the population survey by use of a complex ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex, rather than to the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

Reliability of the estimates

2. 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 the figures 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 figure what 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.

3. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of all estimates in this publication. A table of standard errors for general application is given on page 18. These figures will not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate since they are averages based on calculations for a limited number of past surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics. However, they will provide an indication of the magnitude of the standard error. An example of the calculation and use of standard errors is as follows: the estimated number of persons aged 15 to 64 years not in the labour force in September 1980 who wanted a job is 621,700 (Table 1). From the table of standard errors on page 18 it can be calculated that the estimate has a standard error of about 7,700 and therefore there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 614,000 to 629,400 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it will fall within the range 606,300 to 637,100.

4. The reliability of an estimated percentage or rate, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the numerator and the size of the denominator. For small percentages the relative standard error of the percentage is approximated by the relative standard error of the numerator, which may be obtained from the table. For other percentages the relative standard error will be lower than that of the numerator.

5. As the standard errors in the table show *the smaller the estimate the higher is 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, estimates less than the lowest levels shown in the table on page 18 have not been published. Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

6. Published figures may also be used to estimate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such a figure is itself an estimate and is therefore subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their standard errors and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate standard error (SE) of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE (x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or sub-populations it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

An example of the use of the above formula is as follows: The difference between the estimates of males and females who wanted a job (Table 1) is 376,700 (499,200-122,500). The standard error of this estimate may be calculated as follows: From the table on page 18, the standard errors of the two original estimates can be approximated as 7,200 and 4,200 respectively. Therefore the standard error of the difference (376,700) is:

$$\sqrt{7,200^2 + 4,200^2} \quad \text{or } 8,300$$

(rounded to the nearest 100). Thus there are about two chances in three that the difference that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey is within the range 368,400 to 385,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it is between 360,100 and 393,300.

7. 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.

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									(number)	Per cent of estimate
1,500						300				
2,000						340	470	440		
2,500				510	510	380	510	480		
3,000				550	560	410	550	510		
3,500			740	590	590	430	590	540		
4,000			780	620	630	460	620	560		
4,500	1,000	1,000	820	650	660	480	650	590	970	21.6
5,000	1,100	1,100	860	680	690	500	680	610	1,000	20.0
6,000	1,200	1,200	930	730	750	530	740	650	1,100	18.0
10,000	1,500	1,400	1,200	900	920	640	910	750	1,400	14.0
20,000	2,000	1,900	1,500	1,200	1,200	810	1,200	910	2,000	10.0
50,000	3,000	2,700	2,200	1,600	1,700	1,100	1,700	1,100	2,900	5.8
100,000	3,900	3,500	2,800	2,100	2,100	1,300		1,300	3,900	3.9
200,000	5,000	4,400	3,600	2,600	2,600	1,500			5,100	2.6
300,000	5,800	5,000	4,100	2,900	2,900				6,000	2.0
500,000	6,900	5,800	4,800	3,300	3,300				7,200	1.4
1,000,000	8,500	7,000	5,900						9,100	0.9
2,000,000	10,000	8,400							11,000	0.6
5,000,000									15,000	0.3

Note. Estimates below the levels indicated have not been published. see paragraph 5 on page 17.

