

CHAPTER 5

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE

Persons not in the labour force represent that group of the population who during a particular week are not employed or unemployed. From the labour market perspective, the main interest is in their potential to participate in the labour force. In addition to analysing persons not in the labour force by their demographic and family characteristics, attention is also focussed on their degree of attachment to the labour force. This is achieved by examining the concepts of 'marginal attachment to the labour force' and 'discouraged jobseekers'.

The sources for the statistics in this chapter are the ABS monthly labour force survey and associated supplementary surveys. In particular, a survey of persons not in the labour force is conducted annually to examine the labour force attachments of persons not in the labour force.

Persons Not In the Labour Force

There were 5,045,300 persons not in the labour force in August 1991, 1,728,300 males and 3,317,000 females.

Females comprised 66 per cent of persons not in the labour force in August 1991 compared with 72 per cent ten years earlier.

In August 1991, 37 per cent of persons not in the labour force were aged 65 and over, compared with 31 per cent in August 1981.

A survey conducted in September 1991 provided details of the characteristics of persons aged 15 to 69 who were not in the labour force. There were 3,643,900 persons not in the labour force, accounting for 30 per cent of the civilian population age 15 to 69. This proportion is similar to the proportion estimated in September 1990 (29%).

- Females comprised some 68 per cent of those not in the labour force, whereas they constituted 42 per cent of persons in the labour force.
- Some 71 per cent of women not in the labour force reported home duties/child care as their main activity. This category accounted for 5 per cent of men not in the labour force.
- Some 34 per cent of males and 14 per cent of females not in the labour force reported their main activity as attending an educational institution.
- About 38 per cent of males and 8 per cent of females not in the labour force were reported as retired/voluntarily inactive.

Persons Not In The Labour Force With Marginal Attachment to the Labour Force

Persons not in the labour force can be classified as either having or not having marginal attachment to the labour force. In order to be marginally attached, a person must be neither employed nor unemployed but nevertheless seeking work, or available to start work within four weeks.

Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force numbered 819,300 in September 1991. This represents 22 per cent of all persons aged 15 to 69 not in the labour force. This is similar to the proportion of marginally attached persons in September 1990.

Some characteristics of these people are:

- 71 per cent (578,400) would prefer part-time work if returning to the labour force.
- 45 per cent (369,100) intended to look for work in the next twelve months.
- 17 per cent (138,200) were classified as discouraged job seekers.

The majority of marginally attached persons were female (598,800 or 73%). Of the marginally attached women, 41 per cent said family reasons were preventing them from actively seeking work. The family reason cited by most of these women (77%) was childcare.

Some 61 per cent of males who were marginally attached and not actively looking for work reported 'personal reasons' as the main reason. Another 17 per cent had reported being 'discouraged jobseekers'.

TABLE 51. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : AGE, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1981 TO AUGUST 1991
('000)

August	Age group										Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70 and over		
	MALES										
1981	248.0	56.3	56.9	44.5	67.1	69.7	143.5	208.1	342.4	1,236.6	
1982	243.6	70.4	63.4	48.2	77.0	78.0	160.5	218.3	355.3	1,314.6	
1983	271.0	69.0	57.2	52.1	74.5	82.0	183.2	216.3	373.8	1,379.2	
1984	267.6	71.0	62.1	57.1	78.1	89.0	190.6	216.7	386.6	1,418.8	
1985	280.8	68.6	70.2	57.8	79.4	90.7	198.3	219.8	403.9	1,469.5	
1986(a)	284.2	72.2	67.3	65.2	80.9	93.2	193.2	233.9	419.3	1,509.4	
1987	299.5	69.7	71.3	66.4	87.2	96.8	186.9	243.6	434.2	1,565.4	
1988	311.7	65.1	85.0	72.1	109.1	98.9	190.2	257.5	444.8	1,633.9	
1989	288.9	72.1	72.1	84.8	100.8	92.9	182.2	268.3	457.6	1,619.7	
1990	297.1	76.7	80.7	74.0	96.5	87.9	180.8	275.3	472.1	1,641.1	
1991	320.8	91.2	80.1	82.1	99.3	104.1	184.0	273.1	493.7	1,728.3	
	FEMALES										
1981	272.6	188.7	571.9	378.3	375.7	260.5	284.3	271.8	550.8	3,154.6	
1982	276.8	197.0	570.6	402.3	372.8	275.3	301.2	275.8	571.0	3,242.8	
1983	270.2	193.4	588.8	421.2	381.4	267.7	303.3	280.8	592.3	3,299.1	
1984	279.6	186.8	568.9	429.1	374.0	270.9	316.5	273.6	620.5	3,319.9	
1985	281.5	173.8	542.3	417.3	377.6	272.3	323.7	282.3	642.7	3,313.6	
1986(a)	287.1	165.7	520.4	397.8	351.9	263.8	321.1	293.3	665.2	3,266.3	
1987	315.0	157.8	507.1	399.3	354.8	254.4	320.1	301.8	681.2	3,291.4	
1988	303.1	156.6	514.6	384.9	351.6	248.4	315.4	317.2	696.8	3,288.6	
1989	295.5	148.1	482.6	376.3	346.7	244.2	318.1	331.3	715.9	3,258.7	
1990	294.4	141.3	486.8	357.4	345.5	236.0	308.1	333.2	740.0	3,242.7	
1991	313.6	160.6	482.1	369.5	344.7	231.9	311.4	334.9	768.5	3,317.0	

PERSONS

1981	520.7	244.9	628.8	422.8	442.8	330.2	427.9	479.9	893.2	4,391.2
1982	520.4	267.4	634.0	450.5	449.7	353.3	461.7	494.1	926.3	4,557.4
1983	541.2	262.4	646.1	473.3	455.9	349.7	486.5	497.1	966.2	4,678.3
1984	547.2	257.8	631.0	486.2	452.1	359.9	507.2	490.3	1,007.2	4,378.7
1985	562.2	242.5	612.6	475.2	457.0	363.1	522.0	502.0	1,006.5	4,783.1
1986(a)	571.3	237.9	587.7	463.0	432.8	357.0	514.3	527.0	1,084.5	4,775.7
1987	614.5	227.5	578.4	465.7	441.9	351.1	517.0	545.3	1,115.4	4,856.8
1988	614.8	221.7	599.6	456.6	460.7	347.3	505.5	574.8	1,141.5	4,922.5
1989	584.4	220.2	554.7	461.0	447.5	337.1	500.3	599.6	1,173.5	4,878.5
1990	591.4	218.0	567.5	431.4	442.0	323.9	488.8	608.5	1,212.1	4,883.7
1991	634.3	251.7	562.3	451.6	444.0	336.0	495.3	608.0	1,262.1	5,045.3

(a) Estimates from August 1986 are based on a revised definition introduced in April 1986. See the Technical Notes for further information.
Source: The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0).

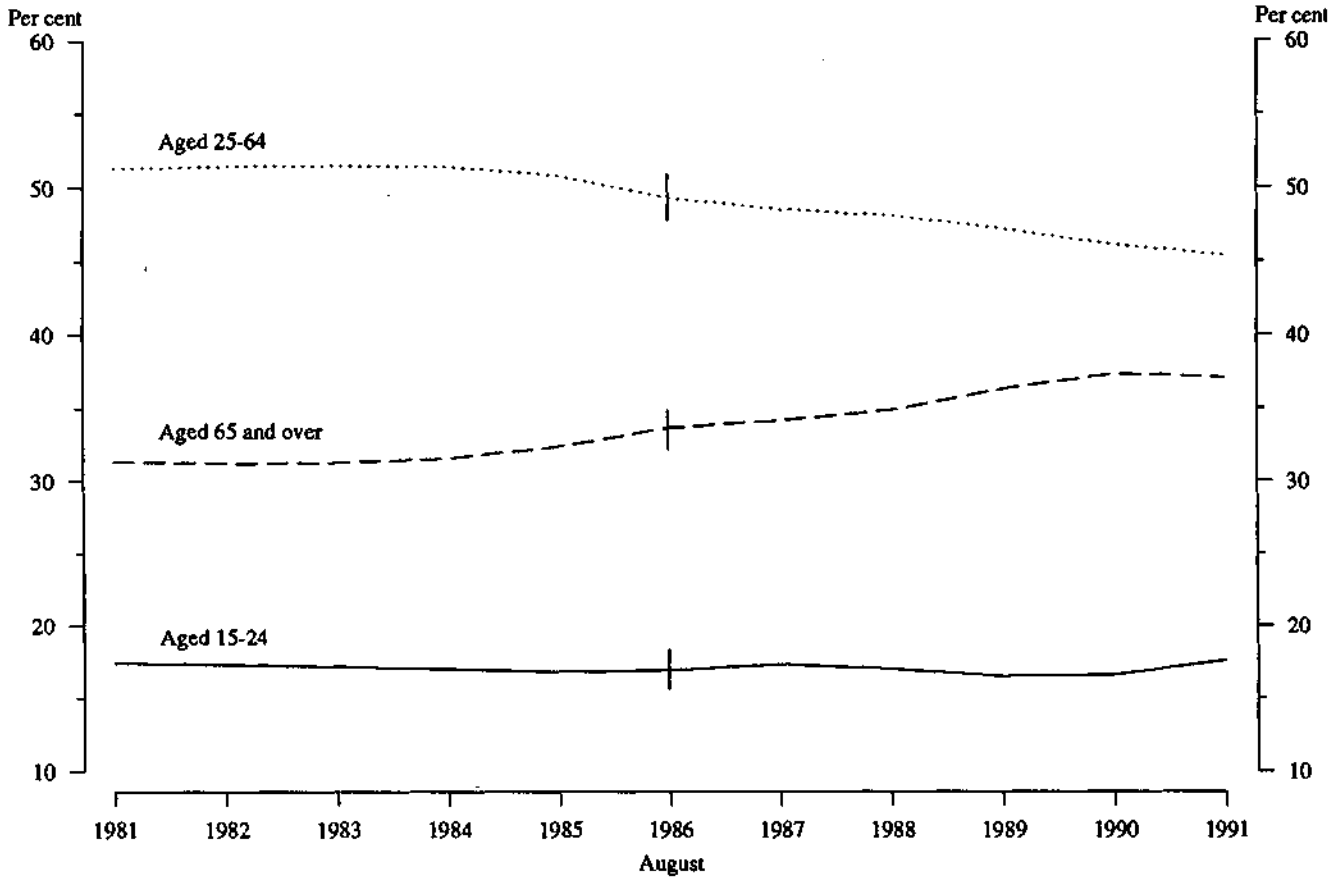
TABLE 52. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : WHETHER LOOKING FOR WORK AND MARITAL STATUS, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1991
('000)

	Males			Females			Persons
	Married	Not married	Total	Married	Not married	Total	
Looking for work	13.9	34.3	48.2	31.1	30.2	61.4	109.6
Took active steps to find work(a)	6.1	14.4	20.6	6.2	12.3	18.5	39.1
Did not take active steps to find work	7.7	19.9	27.7	24.9	18.0	42.9	70.5
Not looking for work	866.5	703.4	1,569.9	1,847.7	1,252.7	3,100.4	4,670.4
Permanently unable to work	18.3	14.2	32.5	6.0	25.1	31.1	63.6
In institutions	27.6	50.0	77.7	20.0	104.1	124.1	201.7
Total	926.3	801.9	1,728.3	1,904.8	1,412.2	3,317.0	5,045.3

(a) Not available to start work in the reference week for reasons other than own temporary illness or injury.

Source: The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0).

CHART 5.1. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE BY AGE, AUSTRALIA



Indicates break in series. Estimates from August 1986 are based on a revised definition introduced in April 1986. See the Technical Notes for further information.
 Source: *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

TABLE 5.3. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE^(a) : FAMILY STATUS, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1991

	Number ('000)			Proportion of population ^(b)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Member of a family	1,271.9	2,458.8	3,730.6	24.0	45.9	35.0
Husband or wife	849.0	1,790.8	2,639.9	21.7	47.0	34.2
With dependents present	114.9	768.1	883.0	5.7	39.2	22.2
Without dependents present	734.1	1,022.7	1,756.8	39.1	55.1	47.1
Sole parent	10.5	160.0	170.5	22.1	47.8	44.6
Other family head	25.7	122.1	147.8	35.4	62.5	55.1
Full-time student aged 15-24 ^(c)	301.6	260.0	561.5	68.7	60.0	64.4
Other child ^(b) of married couple or family head	56.8	45.1	101.9	7.6	9.8	8.4
Other relative of married couple or family head	28.3	80.7	109.0	30.7	65.1	50.4
Not a member of a family	252.8	553.4	806.2	26.9	54.5	41.3
Living alone	187.4	490.6	678.0	38.3	71.0	57.4
Not living alone	65.4	62.8	128.2	14.6	19.3	16.6
Total	1,524.7	3,012.2	4,536.8	24.4	47.2	35.9

(a) Civilians who were residents of households where family status was determined. (b) Aged 15 and over. (c) Excludes persons aged 20-24 attending school. Also excludes full-time students aged 15-24 who are classified as husbands, wives, sole parents or other family heads.

Source: *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

TABLE 5.4. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 TO 69: MARGINAL ATTACHMENT AND LABOUR FORCE STATUS, AUSTRALIA, MARCH 1987 TO SEPTEMBER 1991 ('000)

	March 1987	March 1988	Sept. 1988	Sept. 1989	Sept. 1990	Sept. 1991
MALES						
<i>Civilian population aged 15 to 69</i>	5,654.9	5,764.5	5,829.8	5,977.6	6,070.2	6,158.6
Persons in the labour force	4,632.7	4,711.6	4,718.5	4,872.8	4,971.4	4,986.0
Persons not in the labour force	1,022.2	1,052.9	1,111.4	1,104.8	1,098.8	1,172.6
With marginal attachment to the labour force	163.9	177.6	190.8	186.9	195.4	220.5
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	12.1	13.3	34.7	25.8	26.3	23.6
Were available to start work within four weeks	10.0	10.8	14.8	12.6	12.6	10.7
Were not available to start work within four weeks	2.1	2.5	19.9	13.2	13.7	12.9
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	151.8	164.3	156.1	161.1	169.2	196.9
Discouraged jobseekers	22.2	19.5	19.7	18.2	24.2	34.5
Other	129.6	144.8	136.4	142.9	144.9	162.4
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	858.2	875.3	920.6	917.9	903.4	952.1
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	54.5	63.1	73.9	76.4	85.1	77.5
Did not want to work	733.3	745.5	782.8	759.1	743.3	787.4
Permanently unable to work	20.0	24.1	26.4	25.3	34.8	32.5
Institutionalised persons(a) and boarding school pupils	50.5	42.6	37.5	57.0	40.2	54.8
FEMALES						
<i>Civilian population aged 15 to 69</i>	5,613.0	5,722.5	5,783.8	5,905.8	5,994.1	6,076.8
Persons in the labour force	3,138.4	3,255.1	3,274.7	3,443.5	3,542.8	3,605.6
Persons not in the labour force	2,474.6	2,467.4	2,509.1	2,462.3	2,451.3	2,471.3
With marginal attachment to the labour force	532.5	547.4	530.9	521.5	557.1	598.8
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	19.0	20.3	31.0	29.5	31.3	23.0
Were available to start work within four weeks	13.5	16.1	20.0	15.2	18.9	13.4
Were not available to start work within four weeks	5.5	4.2	11.0	14.4	12.4	9.6
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	513.4	527.1	499.9	492.0	525.8	575.8
Discouraged jobseekers	72.2	72.5	64.1	57.9	76.6	103.7
Other	441.2	454.6	435.7	434.1	449.2	472.1
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	1,942.1	1,919.9	1,978.2	1,940.8	1,894.2	1,872.5
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	177.4	187.2	207.4	209.9	225.4	199.6
Did not want to work	1,727.6	1,692.4	1,732.9	1,692.0	1,618.3	1,621.6
Permanently unable to work	8.8	13.4	10.8	9.8	17.6	15.5
Institutionalised persons(a) and boarding school pupils	28.3	26.9	27.1	29.2	32.9	35.7
PERSONS						
<i>Civilian population aged 15 to 69</i>	11,267.9	11,487.0	11,613.6	11,883.4	12,064.3	12,235.4
Persons in the labour force	7,771.2	7,966.8	7,993.2	8,316.3	8,514.2	8,591.5
Persons not in the labour force	3,496.7	3,520.2	3,620.4	3,567.1	3,550.1	3,643.9
With marginal attachment to the labour force	696.4	725.0	721.7	708.4	752.5	819.3
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	31.1	33.6	65.7	55.3	57.6	46.7
Were available to start work within four weeks	23.6	26.9	34.8	27.7	31.5	24.1
Were not available to start work within four weeks	7.6	6.7	30.9	27.6	26.1	22.5
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	665.3	691.4	656.0	653.1	694.9	772.7
Discouraged jobseekers	94.4	92.0	83.8	76.1	100.9	138.2
Other	570.9	599.4	572.2	577.0	594.1	634.5
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	2,800.3	2,795.2	2,898.8	2,858.7	2,797.6	2,824.6
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	231.8	250.3	281.3	286.3	310.5	277.1
Did not want to work	2,460.9	2,437.8	2,515.7	2,451.1	2,361.6	2,409.0
Permanently unable to work	28.8	37.5	37.2	35.1	52.4	48.1
Institutionalised persons(a) and boarding school pupils	78.8	69.5	64.7	86.2	73.1	90.5

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

Source: *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 1991* (6220.0).

TABLE 5.5. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE:
MAIN REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, AUSTRALIA, MARCH 1987 TO SEPTEMBER 1991
(*000)

	March 1987	March 1988	Sept. 1988	Sept. 1989	Sept. 1990	Sept. 1991
MALES						
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	12.1	13.3	34.7	25.8	26.3	23.6
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	151.8	164.3	156.1	161.1	169.2	196.9
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>						
Had a job to go to	8.6	6.6	5.8	8.0	7.1	*7.3
Personal reasons	105.7	118.4	110.4	114.7	118.8	130.9
Family reasons	*3.8	5.7	*4.1	5.1	5.2	7.3
Discouraged jobseekers	22.2	19.5	19.7	18.2	24.2	34.5
No jobs in suitable hours	*1.2	*1.3	*2.1	*1.1	*0.7	*2.6
Other reasons	9.7	11.4	12.5	12.6	12.0	13.5
Did not know	*0.8	*1.4	*1.5	*1.5	*1.2	*0.8
Total	163.9	177.6	190.8	186.9	195.4	220.5
FEMALES						
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	19.0	20.3	31.0	29.5	31.3	23.0
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	513.4	527.1	499.9	492.0	525.8	575.8
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>						
Had a job to go to	15.1	17.4	13.4	12.1	12.7	18.8
Personal reasons	153.0	161.7	145.8	159.9	160.2	165.2
Own ill health/physical disability/pregnancy	36.5	42.5	35.0	44.3	43.3	35.6
Attending an educational institution	58.0	65.4	55.7	63.8	62.0	75.3
Had no need to work	27.7	25.6	28.3	25.9	31.9	30.2
Give others a chance	4.6	5.9	*3.6	*2.8	*4.3	7.0
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	15.2	12.5	10.5	11.8	10.0	8.0
Moved house/holidays	11.1	9.9	12.6	11.2	8.7	9.1
Family reasons	235.1	236.3	239.2	222.5	234.5	247.2
Ill health of other than self	11.6	11.0	10.6	10.8	10.0	12.2
Childcare	183.7	186.3	190.8	175.6	176.3	193.7
Other family considerations	39.7	39.0	37.8	36.1	48.1	41.3
Discouraged jobseekers	72.2	72.5	64.1	57.9	76.6	103.7
Considered too young or too old by employers	25.0	25.0	23.5	22.8	26.0	16.8
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	3.3	5.6	5.3	*3.0	7.4	5.8
Lacked necessary schooling/training/skills/experience	10.4	10.9	12.0	9.0	11.3	11.6
No jobs in locality or line of work	23.7	24.1	17.5	19.3	24.5	38.1
No jobs at all	9.8	7.0	5.7	*3.8	7.4	31.4
No jobs in suitable hours	10.7	13.4	8.6	9.5	10.4	10.8
Other reasons	19.2	21.4	24.1	23.9	25.3	24.5
Did not know	8.2	4.5	4.7	6.2	6.0	5.6
Total	532.5	547.4	530.9	521.5	557.1	598.8
PERSONS						
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	31.1	33.6	65.7	55.3	57.6	46.7
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	665.3	691.4	656.0	653.1	694.9	772.7
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>						
Had a job to go to	34.7	23.9	19.1	20.1	19.8	26.1
Personal reasons	258.7	280.1	256.2	274.5	279.0	296.1
Own ill health/physical disability/pregnancy	61.1	76.2	69.6	79.2	78.9	65.0
Attending an educational institution	119.8	128.2	111.0	122.1	124.1	155.1
Had no need to work	36.8	32.7	35.9	34.9	42.5	41.5
Give others a chance	5.2	6.4	*3.8	*3.1	5.1	7.9
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	20.4	17.7	16.9	16.3	13.6	11.6
Moved house/holidays	15.3	19.0	19.0	19.0	14.8	14.9
Family reasons	238.9	242.0	243.2	227.6	239.7	254.5
Ill health of other than self	12.9	12.7	12.7	11.4	11.3	14.0
Childcare	185.4	189.2	192.0	177.1	179.0	196.5
Other family considerations	40.5	40.2	38.6	39.1	49.4	44.1
Discouraged jobseekers	94.4	92.0	83.8	76.1	100.9	138.2
Considered too young or too old by employers	35.1	35.4	32.5	30.8	38.6	28.8
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	4.2	6.0	6.5	*3.8	9.2	7.3
Lacked necessary schooling/training/skills/experience	12.5	12.6	14.6	10.6	14.1	13.3
No jobs in locality or line of work	31.1	29.7	23.0	25.7	29.9	48.4
No jobs at all	11.6	8.4	7.2	5.2	9.0	40.3
No jobs in suitable hours	11.8	14.7	10.7	10.6	11.0	13.4
Other reasons	28.9	32.8	36.7	36.4	37.3	38.0
Did not know	9.0	5.9	6.3	7.7	7.2	6.4
Total	696.4	725.0	721.7	708.4	752.5	819.3

Source: Persons Not In the Labour Force, Australia, September 1991 (6220.0).

TABLE 5.6. 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, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1991 ('000)

	<i>Intention to look for work in the next twelve months</i>			<i>Type of work preferred</i>			
	<i>Intended to look</i>	<i>Did not intend to look</i>	<i>Did not know/might look</i>	<i>Not asked(a)</i>	<i>Full-time</i>	<i>Part-time</i>	<i>Total(b)</i>
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	..	..	..	46.7	30.2	15.4	46.7
Were available to start work within four weeks	..	..	..	24.1	12.9	10.5	24.1
Were not available to start work within four weeks	..	..	..	22.5	17.3	4.8	22.5
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	369.1	203.2	174.1	26.1	172.5	563.1	772.5
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>							
Had a job to go to	..	..	..	26.1	10.1	15.4	26.1
Personal reasons	168.9	65.4	61.8	..	77.3	208.4	296.1
Own ill health/physical disability/pregnancy	30.2	17.9	16.9	..	20.7	39.7	65.0
Attending an educational institution	109.6	20.1	25.4	..	42.2	110.6	155.1
Had no need to work	11.6	16.9	13.0	..	* 4.1	36.0	41.5
Give others a chance	* 1.6	* 3.9	* 2.5	..	* 0.7	6.8	7.9
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	* 3.4	5.7	* 2.6	..	* 2.5	8.6	11.6
Moved house/holidays	12.6	* 0.9	* 1.4	..	7.0	6.6	14.9
Family reasons	90.4	89.3	74.7	..	33.6	211.6	254.4
Ill health of other than self	* 4.1	4.5	5.4	..	* 1.7	11.4	14.0
Childcare	70.2	71.9	54.4	..	25.8	164.1	196.5
No childcare in locality	* 4.4	4.6	* 3.9	..	* 2.5	10.4	12.9
No childcare available at all	* 2.0	* 2.6	* 0.6	..	* 1.0	* 3.9	5.2
Cost/too expensive	16.9	22.3	12.1	..	8.2	41.1	51.3
Booked out/no places available	* 1.2	* 0.7	* 2.0	..	* 0.6	* 3.1	* 3.9
Children too young/too old	16.5	8.6	9.4	..	4.5	28.9	34.5
Prefers to look after children	23.8	30.2	21.5	..	7.1	66.2	75.5
Quality of childcare unsuitable	* 2.6	* 0.9	* 2.0	..	* 0.5	4.6	5.4
Other	* 3.0	* 1.9	* 3.0	..	* 1.4	6.1	7.9
Other family considerations	16.1	13.0	14.9	..	6.0	36.1	43.9
Discouraged jobseekers	72.2	37.1	28.8	..	35.0	89.5	138.2
No jobs in suitable hours	9.1	* 2.1	* 2.2	..	* 0.3	12.9	13.4
Other reasons	24.4	8.4	5.2	..	14.6	21.2	38.0
Did not know	* 4.1	* 0.9	* 1.5	..	* 1.4	* 4.1	6.4
Total	369.1	203.2	174.1	72.8	202.7	578.4	819.2

(a) Comprises persons who took active steps to find work and persons who had a job to go to. (b) Includes 'no preference'.

Source: *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 1991* (6220.0).

TABLE 5.7. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a) : OCCUPATION IN LAST JOB AND MAIN ACTIVITY,
AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1991
(^{'000})

Occupation in last job	Main activity						Total
	Home duties/ childcare	Attending an educational institution	Retired/ voluntarily inactive	Own illness/ injury; own disability/ handicap	Worked in unpaid voluntary job	Other	
MALES							
Last job less than 20 years ago	54.4	127.7	421.2	173.4	10.4	41.9	829.0
Managers and administrators	5.0	* 2.1	64.3	12.5	* 1.9	* 4.8	90.5
Professionals	* 3.0	13.5	35.9	6.0	* 1.6	* 3.1	63.2
Para-professionals	* 2.6	* 3.9	27.4	5.8	* 0.2	* 3.9	43.8
Tradespersons	13.2	8.6	89.2	45.2	* 2.3	10.0	168.5
Clerks	* 2.8	11.7	40.0	8.6	* 1.4	* 2.3	66.8
Salespersons and personal service workers	* 3.7	23.4	25.4	8.3	* 1.1	* 2.5	64.4
Plant and machine operators, and drivers	9.1	6.7	49.1	26.4	* 1.3	5.0	97.6
Labourers and related workers	14.9	57.9	89.8	60.5	* 0.6	10.4	234.2
Last job 20 or more years ago	* 1.3	* 0.0	6.4	9.3	* 0.0	* 0.3	17.2
Had never had a job	* 2.1	252.4	* 2.1	12.5	* 0.9	* 1.6	271.7
Total	57.8	380.1	429.6	195.1	11.3	43.8	1,117.8
FEMALES							
Last job less than 20 years ago	1,261.4	112.6	141.1	45.7	23.7	44.1	1,628.6
Managers and administrators	49.3	* 0.5	14.8	* 2.1	* 2.6	* 3.6	72.9
Professionals	77.8	10.7	9.3	* 3.1	* 3.1	* 3.4	107.4
Para-professionals	46.8	* 3.2	6.9	* 1.2	* 1.5	* 1.3	60.9
Tradespersons	58.3	* 4.0	9.2	* 2.4	* 1.2	* 1.1	76.2
Clerks	328.9	21.2	37.0	9.3	5.1	11.2	412.6
Salespersons and personal service workers	302.7	49.6	21.0	8.7	5.1	10.6	397.8
Plant and machine operators, and drivers	80.5	* 3.0	7.3	* 4.1	* 0.7	* 2.2	97.7
Labourers and related workers	317.2	20.4	35.7	14.7	* 4.4	10.8	403.2
Last job 20 or more years ago	344.4	* 0.2	48.0	10.8	6.8	7.8	418.1
Had never had a job	126.6	233.8	10.1	14.5	* 1.8	* 2.0	388.8
Total	1,732.3	346.6	199.3	71.0	32.4	53.9	2,435.5
PERSONS							
Last job less than 20 years ago	1,315.8	240.3	562.3	219.0	34.1	86.0	2,457.6
Managers and administrators	54.3	* 2.6	79.1	14.6	4.5	8.4	163.4
Professionals	80.9	24.2	45.2	9.1	4.7	6.5	170.6
Para-professionals	49.4	7.1	34.3	6.9	* 1.7	5.2	104.6
Tradespersons	71.5	12.5	98.4	47.7	* 3.5	11.0	244.7
Clerks	331.7	32.8	77.0	17.9	6.5	13.5	479.4
Salespersons and personal service workers	306.4	73.0	46.5	17.0	6.3	13.1	462.2
Plant and machine operators, and drivers	89.6	9.7	56.4	30.5	* 2.0	7.1	195.3
Labourers and related workers	332.1	78.3	125.4	75.3	5.1	21.2	637.4
Last job 20 or more years ago	345.6	* 0.2	54.4	20.1	6.8	8.1	435.3
Had never had a job	128.7	486.2	12.2	27.0	* 2.7	* 3.6	660.5
Total	1,790.2	726.7	628.9	266.2	43.7	97.7	3,553.3

(a) Excludes students boarding at school, patients in hospitals and sanatoriums and inmates of reformatories, gaols, etc.

Source: Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 1991 (6220.0).

Discouraged Jobseekers

In September 1991 there were an estimated 138,200 discouraged jobseekers, an increase of 37 per cent compared with September 1990. Discouraged jobseekers are persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who want to work, and were available to start within four weeks, but are not actively looking for work. The proportion of discouraged jobseekers as a component of all persons not in the labour force has increased from 2.7 per cent in September 1987 to 3.8 per cent in September 1991.

The number of discouraged jobseekers who believed that there were 'no jobs at all' has more than quadrupled from the September 1990 estimate of 9,000 persons to 40,300 persons at September 1991. Of these persons, 78 per cent were female.

The most frequently reported previous occupation of discouraged jobseekers whose last job was less than 20 years ago was 'Labourers and related workers' (24%). Twelve per cent of discouraged jobseekers had never had a job.

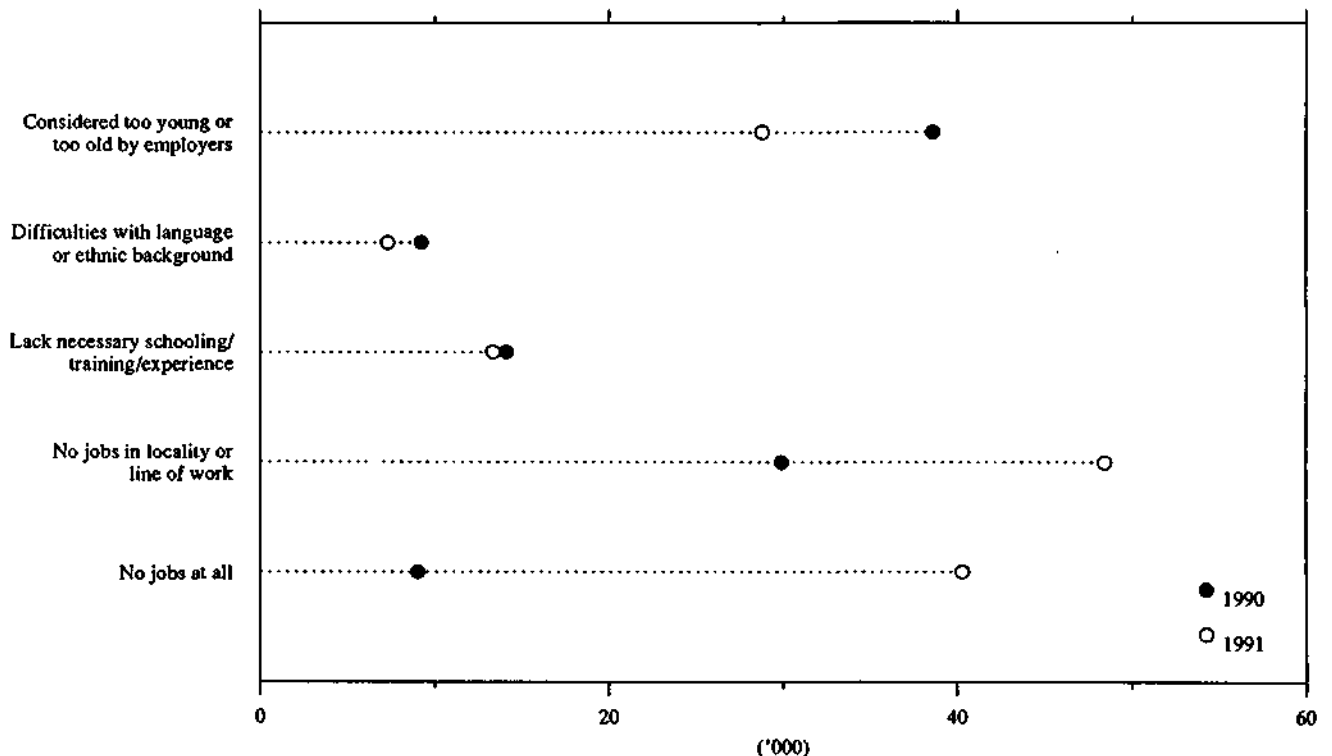
Some 42 per cent of discouraged job seekers were in the 45 to 64 age group — this age group comprises only 18 per cent of unemployed persons.

TABLE 5.8. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WERE DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS: AGE, AUSTRALIA, MARCH 1987 TO SEPTEMBER 1991 ('000)

Age group	March 1987	March 1988	Sept. 1988	Sept. 1989	Sept. 1990	Sept. 1991
15-19	6.7	7.9	8.0	5.5	6.8	14.5
20-24	*3.1	*2.7	*3.5	*3.6	5.4	7.2
25-34	11.7	15.3	12.8	10.2	14.8	19.3
35-44	21.8	19.0	15.3	13.9	18.9	28.0
45-54	18.6	15.4	14.8	15.0	19.2	30.2
55-64	23.1	22.3	22.3	20.2	24.3	28.5
65-69	9.4	9.5	7.1	7.7	11.6	10.4
Total	94.4	92.0	83.8	76.1	100.9	138.2

Source: *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 1991 (6220.0)*.

CHART 5.2. DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS: REASONS FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1990 AND 1991



Source: *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 1991 (6220.0)*.

Transition from Education to Work

In the twelve months to May 1991, the number of persons not in the labour force aged 15 to 64 who were attending an educational institution at the time of the survey increased by 11 per cent (75,800). The estimates of persons in this group attending school increased by 10 per cent (42,900) while those attending higher education institutions increased by 18 per cent (30,700). The corresponding estimates for the period May 1986 to 1991 show an increase of 23 per cent (144,200) for total students attending, with the numbers of persons at school and those in higher education up by 17 per cent (66,800) and 58 per cent (74,200) respectively.

TABLE 5.9. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : WHETHER ATTENDING AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ATTENDING, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1986 TO MAY 1991 ('000)

Type of educational institution attending	May 1986	May 1987	May 1988	May 1989	May 1990	May 1991
MALES						
Attending	301.1	330.0	353.7	347.4	331.5	382.4
School	205.0	229.0	235.7	220.1	216.9	239.2
Higher Education	64.9	70.6	79.0	90.2	79.8	103.0
TAFE	22.5	24.2	31.2	27.8	25.3	32.0
Other tertiary	8.7	6.2	7.8	9.0	9.6	8.2
Not attending	464.2	468.9	476.8	463.5	469.1	475.4
Total	765.3	798.9	830.5	810.8	800.7	857.8
FEMALES						
Attending	336.5	371.5	391.8	379.3	374.4	399.3
School	187.2	214.0	214.3	205.3	199.1	219.7
Higher Education	63.8	74.1	83.7	83.8	92.5	99.8
TAFE	58.8	63.2	70.6	61.2	55.7	54.5
Other tertiary	26.7	20.2	23.2	28.7	27.2	25.2
Not attending	1,872.6	1,848.4	1,814.7	1,752.4	1,723.6	1,734.0
Total	2,209.1	2,219.9	2,206.5	2,131.8	2,098.0	2,133.3
PERSONS						
Attending	637.6	701.5	745.6	726.7	706.0	781.8
School	392.1	443.0	450.0	426.2	416.0	458.9
Higher Education	128.7	144.7	162.7	174.0	172.2	202.9
TAFE	81.4	87.4	101.8	89.0	81.0	86.6
Other tertiary	35.4	26.4	31.0	37.6	36.7	33.4
Not attending	2,336.8	2,317.3	2,291.5	2,215.9	2,192.7	2,209.3
Total	2,974.4	3,018.9	3,037.1	2,942.6	2,898.7	2,991.1

Source: Transition from Education to Work, Australia, May 1991 (6227.0).

TABLE 5.10. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1989 TO MAY 1991 ('000)

Educational attainment	Males			Females			Persons		
	1989	1990	1991	1989	1990	1991	1989	1990	1991
With post-school qualifications	197.9	185.7	191.8	451.2	444.8	464.9	649.1	630.4	656.8
Degree	33.9	29.4	34.0	58.8	56.9	64.3	92.7	86.4	98.3
Trade qualification	106.2	100.3	99.3	50.1	47.1	43.6	156.2	147.5	142.9
Certificate or diploma	54.1	54.1	55.9	334.6	333.8	350.9	388.7	388.0	406.8
Other	3.7	*1.8	*2.7	7.7	6.8	6.0	11.4	8.6	8.7
Without post-school qualifications(a)	392.5	398.1	426.8	1,474.8	1,454.2	1,448.7	1,867.4	1,852.3	1,875.4
Attended highest level of secondary school available	123.1	126.9	156.1	305.7	351.7	359.5	428.8	478.6	515.6
Attending a tertiary institution in May	81.3	76.4	98.7	83.1	86.9	95.4	164.4	163.3	194.0
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	267.2	266.4	268.6	1,161.5	1,089.2	1,079.8	1,428.7	1,355.6	1,348.4
Attending a tertiary institution in May	14.5	15.7	16.6	41.7	36.8	35.1	56.2	52.6	51.7
Still at school	220.4	216.9	239.2	205.8	199.1	219.7	426.2	416.0	458.9
Total	810.8	800.7	857.8	2,131.8	2,098.0	2,133.3	2,942.6	2,898.7	2,991.1

(a) Includes persons who never attended school and those for whom attendance at a secondary school could not be determined.

Source: Transition from Education to Work, Australia, May 1991 (6227.0).