



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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NEW ISSUE

**PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED
THE LABOUR FORCE,
AUSTRALIA**

MAY 1985

CATALOGUE NO. 6264.0

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AUSTRALIA**

MAY 1985

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

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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 May 1985 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. This subset of respondents was asked details of previous job, educational attainment when ceased previous job, highest educational qualification gained since previous job, main activity while out of the labour force since previous job, main reason for wanting to work again and details of current job, if appropriate.

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 who had re-entered the labour force.

Definitions

4. *Persons who had re-entered the labour force* are those persons who were working or looking for work in survey week, had a period out of the labour force of at least twelve months duration that finished within the last twelve months and had worked continuously for at least twelve months at some earlier time.

5. It is impracticable to obtain information relating to a long period of time which is strictly comparable with that obtained in the monthly labour force survey for which the reference period is one week. The definitions used in determining the labour force status of persons in the monthly survey depend on a detailed set of questions asked about a person's labour force activity during the reference period. For the survey of persons who had re-entered the labour force a person is assigned to labour force categories at various points in time on the basis of a more limited set of questions. It is for this reason that the terms *worked* and *looked for work* are used in this survey rather than the rigidly defined terms *employed* and *unemployed* used in the monthly labour force survey.

6. *Persons in the labour force* are those persons who reported having either worked or looked for work as defined in paragraphs 7 and 8.

7. *Persons who worked* are those persons who reported having either worked or been on paid leave.

8. *Persons who looked for work* are those persons who reported having been out of work and looking for a job.

9. *Persons out of the labour force* are persons who reported having neither worked nor looked for work as defined in paragraphs 7 and 8.

10. *Previous job* is the job, full-time or part-time, that a person who had re-entered the labour force reported having worked in continuously for at least twelve months at some earlier time (as referred to in paragraph 4).

11. *Time since previous job* is the total time since previous job as defined in paragraph 10. *Time spent out of the labour force since previous job* is the time spent neither working nor looking for work since previous job. For some persons, this is the same as time since previous job. However, for those who have worked for periods of less than twelve continuous months and/or have looked for work since leaving their previous job, this time will be less than time since previous job.

12. *Full-time workers* are those who usually work 35 hours or more a week and others who, although usually part-time workers, worked 35 hours or more during the survey week. *Part-time workers* are those who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the survey week. When recording hours of work, fractions of hours are disregarded.

13. *Active steps taken to find work* comprise: writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering a newspaper advertisement for a job; checking factory or Commonwealth Employment Service noticeboards; being registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.

14. *Method of job attainment* is determined by the respondents' answer to the question 'How did you find out that a job was available?' and is described according to whether an employer approached the jobseeker or a jobseeker approached the employer. In the latter case, the job is described according to whether or not the jobseeker knew that a job was available before approaching the employer.

15. *Persons with a post-school qualification* are those who have left school and who answered 'yes' to the question: 'Since leaving school have you obtained a certificate, diploma, degree or any other qualification?'.

16. *Classification of post-school qualifications*. Respondents indicated which one of the following groups best describes their highest qualification:

- (a) *Degree*: a bachelor degree (including honours), a graduate or post-graduate diploma, masters degree or a doctorate;
- (b) *Trade; technical or other certificate*: completion of an approved trade/technician apprenticeship or training course, other certificate or diploma in secretarial or business studies, administration, teaching, nursing, etc.;
- (c) *Other*: completion of other post-secondary education, e.g. adult education, preparatory/bridging course or hobby course.

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

18. Unless otherwise stated, all characteristics referenced in this publication are as at the survey week.

Results of the survey

19. 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.

20. Additional tables available but not included in this publication are listed on page 16. No preliminary publication was released for this survey.

21. May 1985 was the first time that a supplementary survey on this topic has been conducted.

22. It is proposed that this survey will next be conducted in May 1987.

Reliability of the estimates

23. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) *Sampling error*: Since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, 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.
- (b) *non-sampling error*: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies 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

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0) — issued monthly (\$1.20, \$2.10 incl. postage)

Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia, July 1985 (6222.0) — issued annually

Transition from Education to Work, Australia, May 1985 (6227.0) — issued annually

Methods of Obtaining Jobs, Australia, July 1982 (6245.0) — issued irregularly

25. 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.

Statistics on VIATEL

26. Selected economic, social and demographic statistics are available on VIATEL *656#.

Symbols and other usages

- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 23 above.
- .. not applicable
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified
- CES Commonwealth Employment Service

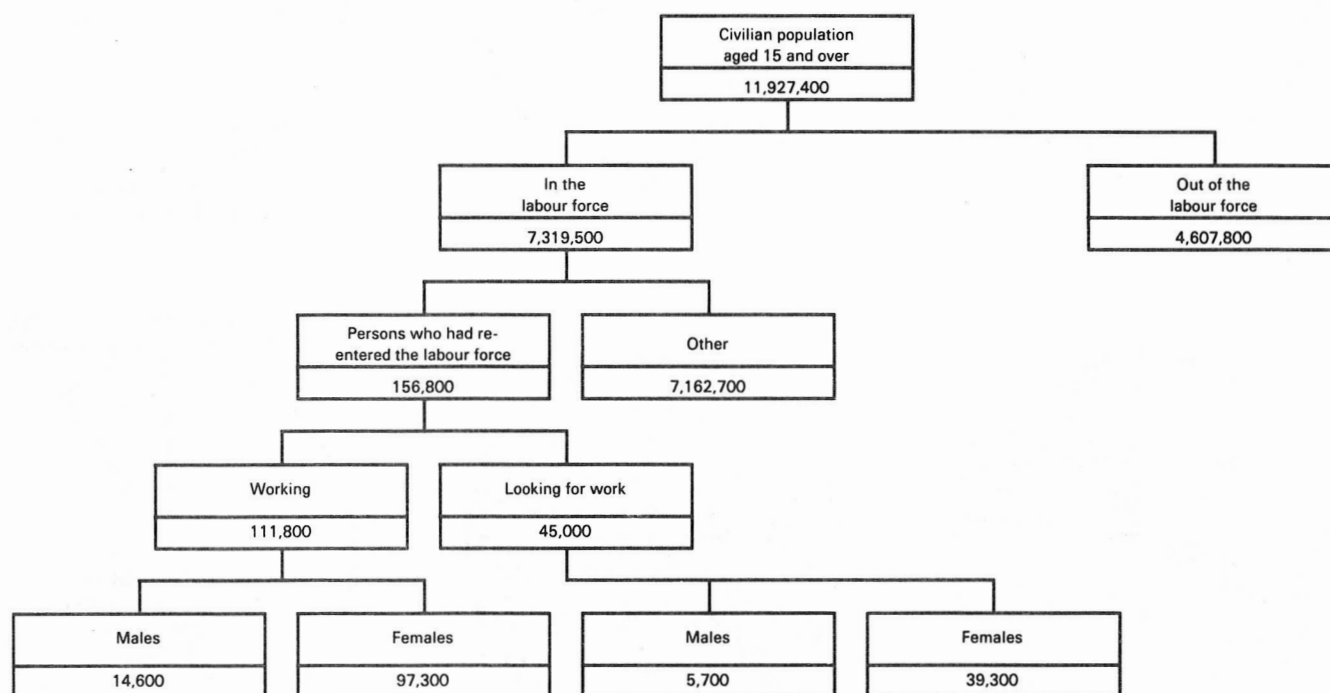
27. Because figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

At May 1985 there were 7,319,500 persons in the labour force (61.4 per cent of the civilian population aged 15 and over). Of these persons 156,800 (2.1 per cent) had re-entered the labour force within the last twelve months. The majority of persons who had re-entered the labour force were females (136,500 or 87.1 per cent) while only 20,300 males re-entered the labour force.

111,800 (71.3 per cent) persons who had re-entered the labour force were working whilst 45,000 (28.7 per cent) were looking for work. Of those persons working 87.0 per cent were females and of those persons looking for work 87.3 per cent were females.

DIAGRAM 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER : WHETHER IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHETHER HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE, MAY 1985
(Source of data : Table 1)



Summary of characteristics of persons who had re-entered the labour force

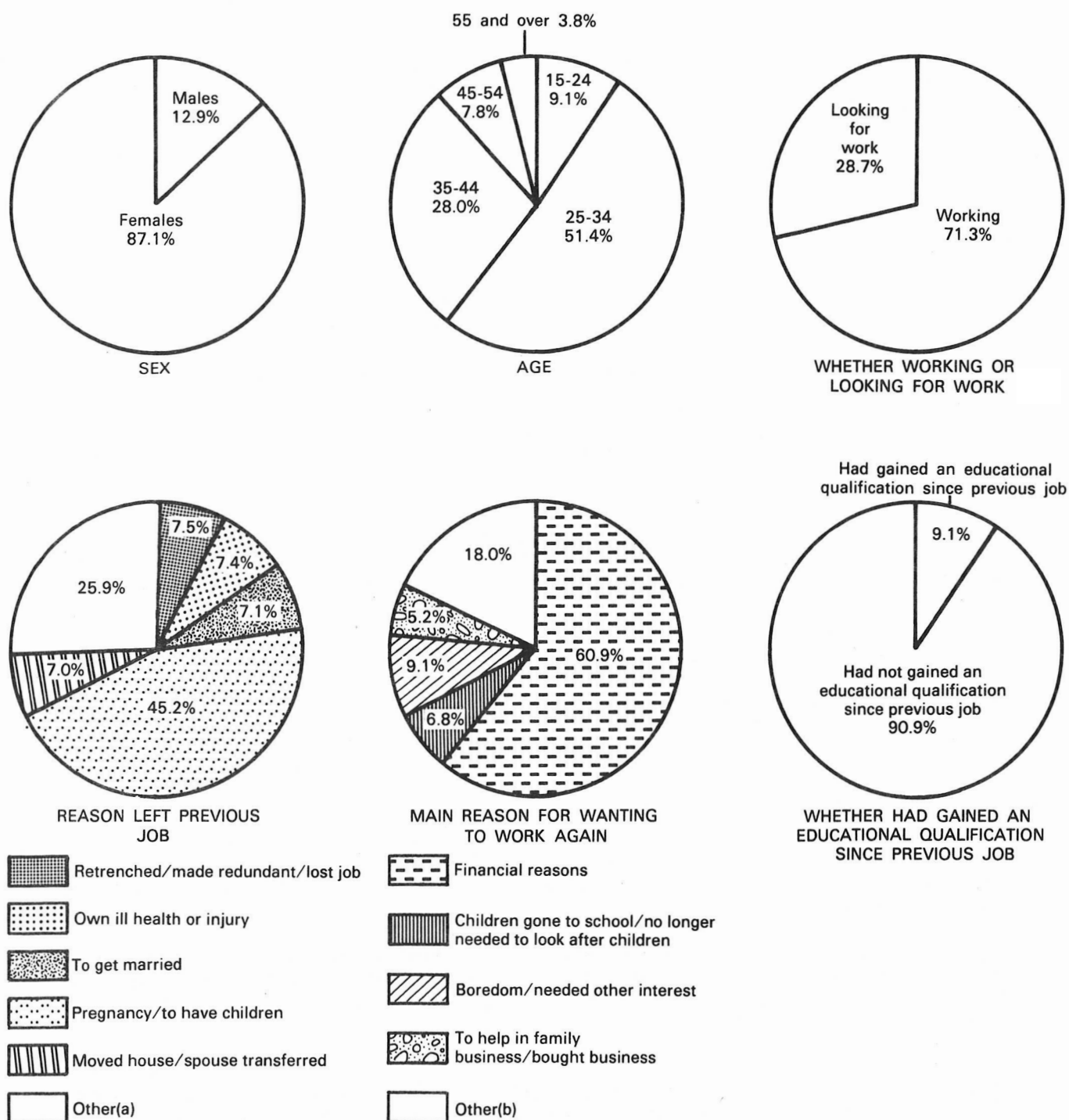
The majority of persons who had re-entered the labour force (80,600 or 51.4 per cent) were aged between 25 and 34. A further 43,900 (28.0 per cent) were in the 35 to 44 age group while only 6,000 (3.8 per cent) were aged 55 and over. While more than 90 per cent of females who had re-entered the labour force were aged 15 to 44, only approximately 70 per cent of males were in this age group.

70,800 (51.9 per cent) females reported pregnancy or to have children as the reason for leaving their previous job. The most commonly reported reasons for leaving previous job amongst males were own ill health or injury and returned to studies (27.1 per cent and 26.1 per cent respectively). 3,600 (17.7 per cent) males and 8,100 (5.9 per cent) females had been retrenched from their previous job.

Financial reasons was the dominant reason for wanting to work again — reported by 60.9 per cent of persons who had re-entered the labour force. 9.1 per cent (mainly females) reported that they wanted to work again due to boredom or because they needed another interest, and a further 6.8 per cent (again mainly females) reported that their children had gone to school or that they no longer needed to look after their children.

Most persons who had re-entered the labour force (142,600 or 90.9 per cent) had not gained an educational qualification since their previous job. Of the 14,200 persons who had gained an educational qualification during this time, 4,300 (30.3 per cent) had gained a degree while 6,700 (47.2 per cent) had gained a trade; technical or other certificate.

DIAGRAM 2. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, MAY 1985
(Source of data : Tables 2, 3 and 4)



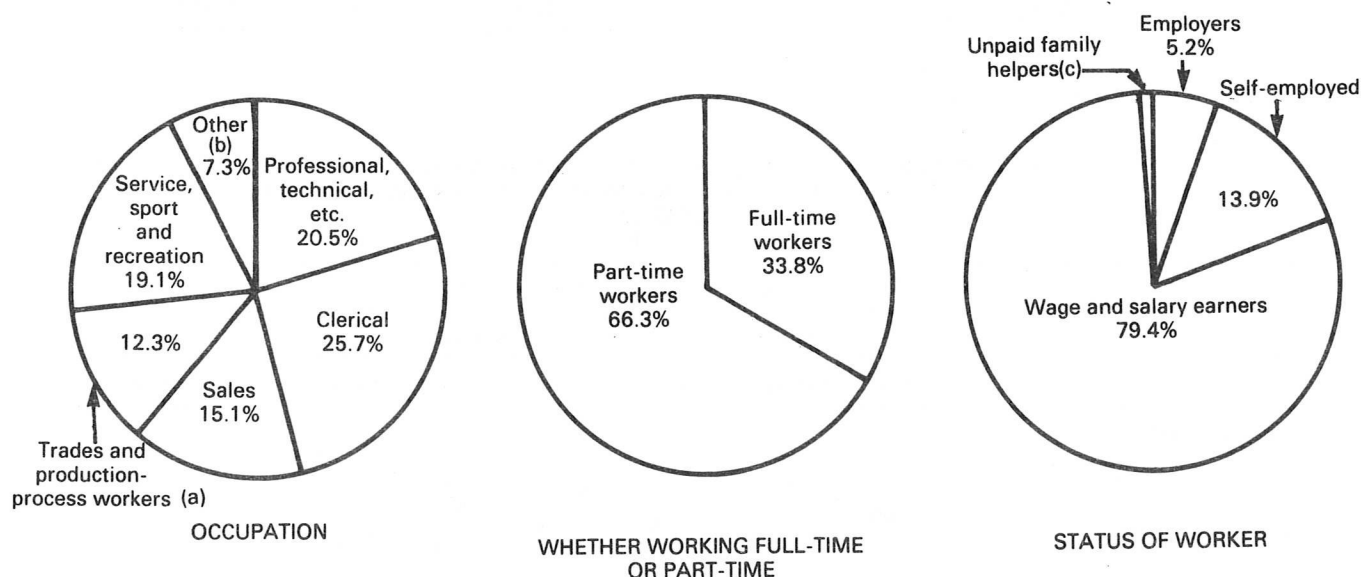
(a) Includes returned to studies; retired/did not want to work any longer; unsatisfactory work arrangements; to look after family, house or someone else; and travel. (b) Includes returned after illness or injury of another person; returned from travel; returned from unpaid leave; spouse transferred; completed studies; returned after own illness or injury; and suitable childcare available.

Details of job of persons who had re-entered the labour force and were working

Of those persons who had re-entered the labour force and were working, most were working in the clerical (28,700 or 25.7 per cent), professional, technical, etc. (22,900 or 20.5 per cent) and service, sport and recreation (21,300 or 19.1 per cent) occupations.

Approximately two-thirds of these persons were working part-time. The majority (88,800 or 79.4 per cent) were wage and salary earners. 15,500 were self-employed and 5,800 were employers.

DIAGRAM 3. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE WORKING : DETAILS OF JOB, MAY 1985
(Source of data : Table 23)



(a) Includes labourers, n.e.c., and miners and quarry workers. (b) Comprises administrative, executive and managerial; farmers, fisherpersons and timbergetters; and transport and communication. (c) Estimate subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

Persons who had re-entered the labour force and were working in wage and salary earner jobs

59,200 (66.7 per cent) of persons who had re-entered the labour force and were wage or salary earners reported that they had approached their employer to obtain their job. 37,800 of these persons had prior knowledge that the job was available — 15,500 (41.0 per cent) gained this knowledge through newspaper advertisements and 14,400 (38.1 per cent) through friends, relatives or company contacts.

The average usual gross weekly pay reported by full-time wage and salary earners was \$315.20, compared with \$114.60 for part-time wage and salary earners.

Persons who had re-entered the labour force and were looking for work

38,800 (86.2 per cent) of persons who had re-entered the labour force and were looking for work had left their previous job less than twenty years ago and had worked full-time in that job. Of these persons, 15,700 (40.5 per cent) were looking for full-time work and 23,100 (59.5 per cent) were looking for part-time work at May 1985.

Most persons who had re-entered the labour force and were looking for work (39,300 or 87.3 per cent) were members of a family with 28,300 of these being husbands or wives with children aged 0 to 14 present.

TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER : WHETHER IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHETHER HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE, MAY 1985
(' 000)

<i>Whether in the labour force and whether had re-entered the labour force</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Persons aged 15 and over	5,871.3	6,056.1	11,927.4
Out of the labour force	1,402.2	3,205.6	4,607.8
In the labour force	4,469.1	2,850.5	7,319.5
Persons who had re-entered the labour force	20.3	136.5	156.8
Working	14.6	97.3	111.8
Looking for work	5.7	39.3	45.0
Other	4,448.7	2,714.0	7,162.7

TABLE 2. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS AND WHETHER WORKING OR LOOKING FOR WORK, MAY 1985
(' 000)

	<i>Whether working or looking for work</i>						<i>Total</i>		
	<i>Working</i>			<i>Looking for work</i>					
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Age group (years)—									
15-24	*	7.1	9.6	*	4.1	4.6	*	11.2	14.2
25-34	5.5	51.6	57.1	} 3.5 {	21.4	23.5	7.6	73.0	80.6
35-44	} 4.0 {	29.8	32.1		10.4	11.8	3.7	40.2	43.9
45-54		7.2	8.8	*	*	} 5.1 {	*	9.7	12.2
55 and over	*	*	4.2	*	*		3.6	*	6.0
Family status—									
Member of a family(a)	9.7	90.0	99.7	3.7	35.6	39.3	13.4	125.7	139.1
Husband or wife	7.2	80.6	87.8	*	29.0	32.0	10.2	109.6	119.8
With children aged 0-14 present	*	70.2	73.3	*	26.8	28.3	4.5	97.1	101.6
Without children aged 0-14 present	4.2	10.3	14.5	*	*	3.7	5.7	12.5	18.2
Not-married family head	*	7.4	7.8	*	6.0	6.4	*	13.4	14.2
Child of family head	*	*	3.7	*	*	*	*	*	4.3
Not a member of a family	4.5	*	7.6	*	*	*	5.9	4.4	10.2
Not family coded	*	4.2	4.5	*	*	*	*	6.5	7.5
Birthplace and year of arrival—									
Born in Australia	10.9	73.1	84.0	*	29.1	32.1	13.8	102.2	116.0
Born outside Australia	3.7	24.1	27.9	*	10.2	12.9	6.5	34.3	40.8
Arrived before 1971	*	14.5	16.6	*	6.2	8.2	4.1	20.7	24.8
Arrived 1971-1985	*	9.7	11.3	*	3.9	4.7	*	13.6	16.0
Born in main English speaking countries(b)	*	14.4	16.3	*	5.7	7.5	3.6	20.1	23.8
Born in other countries	*	9.7	11.6	*	4.5	5.5	*	14.2	17.0
Total	14.6	97.3	111.8	5.7	39.3	45.0	20.3	136.5	156.8

(a) Includes other relative of family head. (b) Comprises U.K., Ireland, Canada, South Africa, U.S.A. and New Zealand.

**TABLE 3. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : DETAILS OF PREVIOUS JOB
AND WHETHER WORKING OR LOOKING FOR WORK, MAY 1985**
(' 000)

	<i>Whether working or looking for work</i>								
	<i>Working</i>			<i>Looking for work</i>			<i>Total</i>		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Occupation in previous job—									
Previous job less than 20 years ago	14.6	92.8	107.4	5.7	37.8	43.5	20.3	130.6	150.9
Professional, technical, etc.	*	22.1	24.3	*	5.4	6.2	*	27.6	30.5
Clerical	*	35.7	39.0	*	14.8	15.3	3.8	50.5	54.3
Sales	*	11.5	12.7	*	4.4	4.9	*	15.9	17.6
Trades and production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c., and miners and quarry workers	4.6	8.5	13.2	*	5.2	7.8	7.3	13.7	21.0
Service, sport and recreation	*	10.8	11.5	*	5.8	6.1	*	16.6	17.6
Other(a)	*	4.3	6.9	*	*	*	3.7	6.4	10.0
Previous job 20 or more years ago	*	4.4	4.4	*	*	*	*	5.9	5.9
Full-time or part-time status in previous job—									
Previous job less than 20 years ago(b)	14.6	92.8	107.4	5.7	37.8	43.5	20.3	130.6	150.9
Full-time	13.8	74.3	88.1	5.7	33.0	38.8	19.5	107.4	126.9
Part-time	*	16.5	17.2	*	4.5	4.5	*	21.0	21.7
Previous job 20 or more years ago	*	4.4	4.4	*	*	*	*	5.9	5.9
Time in previous job(years)—									
1-2	4.5	28.0	32.5	*	10.9	12.9	6.4	38.9	45.3
3-4	4.5	19.8	22.3	*	8.3	8.6	6.2	28.0	31.0
5-9		33.2	35.2	*	15.1	16.4		48.3	51.6
10-19	5.7	15.6	18.9	*	4.8	5.5	3.9	20.5	24.4
20 or more		*	*	*	*	*	3.8	*	4.6
Reason left previous job—									
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	*	4.8	7.2	*	*	4.6	3.6	8.1	11.8
Returned to studies	5.0	3.6	8.6	*	*	*	5.3	4.5	9.8
Retired/did not want to work any longer	*	3.8	5.1	*	*	*	*	4.6	6.2
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.2	4.7
Own ill health or injury	*	4.5	7.7	*	*	4.0	5.5	6.1	11.6
To get married	*	7.3	7.3	*	3.9	3.9	*	11.2	11.2
Pregnancy/to have children	*	51.7	51.7	*	19.1	19.1	*	70.8	70.8
To look after family, house or someone else	*	4.5	4.7	*	*	*	*	7.4	7.6
Moved house/spouse transferred	*	7.0	7.3	*	*	3.6	*	10.4	10.9
Travel	*	4.5	5.5	*	*	*	*	5.6	7.0
Other	*	*	4.1	*	*	*	*	3.7	5.3
Educational attainment when left previous job—									
With post-school qualifications(c)	5.4	38.1	43.5	*	11.8	13.9	7.6	49.8	57.4
Degree	*	8.4	10.0	*	*	*	*	10.4	12.7
Trade; technical or other certificate	3.5	28.0	31.5	*	9.5	10.9	4.9	37.5	42.4
Without post-school qualifications(d)	9.2	59.2	68.4	3.6	27.5	31.1	12.8	86.7	99.4
Attended highest level of secondary school available	4.7	12.0	16.7	*	4.2	4.7	5.1	16.2	21.3
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	4.5	47.2	51.7	*	23.3	26.4	7.6	70.5	78.1
Left at age—									
16 or over	*	19.7	21.1	*	9.0	10.0	*	28.6	31.1
15 or under	*	27.5	30.6	*	14.3	16.4	5.2	41.8	47.0
Still at school	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Time since previous job(years)—									
1-2	8.7	28.9	37.6	3.7	9.2	12.9	12.4	38.1	50.5
3-4	3.9	21.5	25.4	*	5.5	6.4	4.9	26.9	31.8
5-9	*	25.1	26.7	*	14.6	15.4	*	39.7	42.1
10-19	*	17.3	17.7	*	8.6	8.8	*	25.9	26.5
20 or more	*	4.4	4.4	*	*	*	*	5.9	5.9
Total	14.6	97.3	111.8	5.7	39.3	45.0	20.3	136.5	156.8

(a) Comprises administrative, executive and managerial; farmers, fisherpersons and timbergetters; and transport and communication. (b) Includes varied/did not know.
(c) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (d) Includes persons who never attended school.

TABLE 4. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER RELATED CHARACTERISTICS AND WHETHER WORKING OR LOOKING FOR WORK, MAY 1985
(' 000)

	<i>Whether working or looking for work</i>								
	<i>Working</i>			<i>Looking for work</i>			<i>Total</i>		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Main reason for wanting to work again—									
Completed studies	*	*	5.1	*	*	*	*	3.7	5.8
Financial reasons	8.0	54.3	62.4	3.8	29.3	33.1	11.9	83.6	95.5
Returned after own illness or injury	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.1
Suitable childcare available	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	3.9	4.1
Children gone to school/no longer needed to look after children	*	6.9	6.9	*	3.9	3.9	*	10.7	10.7
Boredom/needed another interest	*	11.0	11.5	*	*	*	*	13.5	14.3
To help in family business/bought business	*	7.8	8.2	*	*	*	*	7.8	8.2
Other(a)	*	10.8	12.7	*	*	*	*	12.1	14.2
Time spent out of the labour force since previous job(years)—									
1-2	9.8	36.1	46.0	4.0	10.8	14.8	13.8	47.0	60.8
3-4	} 4.3 {	18.3	21.6	*	5.3	6.4	4.4	23.6	28.0
5-9		22.3	23.4	*	14.3	14.7	*	36.7	38.1
10-19		16.6	17.0	*	7.7	8.0	*	24.3	25.0
20 or more	*	3.9	3.9	*	*	*	*	5.0	5.0
Highest educational qualification gained since previous job—									
Had gained an educational qualification since previous job(b)	3.7	8.3	11.9	*	*	*	3.8	10.5	14.2
Degree	*	*	4.2	*	*	*	*	*	4.3
Trade; technical or other certificate	*	4.2	5.2	*	*	*	*	5.5	6.7
Had not gained an educational qualification since previous job	10.9	89.0	99.9	5.6	37.0	42.7	16.6	126.1	142.6
Never attended school	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Still at school	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Active steps taken to find work during the last twelve months—									
Registered with the CES and—									
Took no other active steps	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Contacted prospective employers	*	7.2	10.0	*	8.8	10.9	4.9	16.0	20.9
Took other active steps	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	*	9.0	12.3	*	10.4	13.5	6.3	19.5	25.8
Not registered with the CES and—									
Took only inactive steps	*	*	*	*	3.8	4.0	*	6.9	7.1
Contacted prospective employers	3.6	27.9	31.5	*	20.2	22.2	5.6	48.0	53.6
Took other active steps	*	4.1	4.8	*	4.9	5.4	*	8.9	10.2
Total	4.4	35.0	39.4	*	28.8	31.5	7.1	63.9	70.9
Had not looked for work	6.9	53.2	60.1	..	..	..	6.9	53.2	60.1
Main difficulty in finding work during the last twelve months—									
Own ill health or injury	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	3.9
Considered too young or too old by employers	*	*	*	*	4.1	4.5	*	6.1	7.3
Unsuitable hours	*	4.1	4.5	*	7.5	7.9	*	11.7	12.5
Lacked necessary skills/education	*	*	*	*	3.8	4.0	*	5.2	5.9
No vacancies in line of work	*	*	4.3	*	3.9	4.6	*	7.1	9.0
No vacancies at all	*	*	*	*	3.7	3.8	*	5.4	5.6
Other difficulties(c)	*	6.1	6.6	*	7.9	8.7	*	14.0	15.3
No difficulties at all	3.9	25.3	29.3	*	7.1	8.1	4.9	32.4	37.3
Had not looked for work	6.9	53.2	60.1	..	..	..	6.9	53.2	60.1
Total	14.6	97.3	111.8	5.7	39.3	45.0	20.3	136.5	156.8

(a) Includes returned after illness or injury of another person; returned from travel; returned from unpaid leave; and spouse transferred. (b) Includes persons who had obtained an other educational qualification. (c) Includes too far to travel/transport problems; language difficulties; insufficient work experience; and difficulties with ethnic background.

TABLE 5. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : REASON LEFT PREVIOUS JOB AND OCCUPATION IN PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Reason left previous job	Occupation in previous job							Previous job 20 or more years ago	Total
	Previous job less than 20 years ago								
	Profession- ional, technical, etc.	Clerical	Sales	Trades and production- process workers and labourers, n.e.c.(a)	Service, sport and recreation	Other(b)	Total		
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	*	*	*	3.6	*	*	11.3	*	11.8
Returned to studies	*	3.6	*	*	*	*	9.8	*	9.8
Retired/did not want to work any longer	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.2	*	6.2
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.7	*	4.7
Own ill health or injury	*	*	*	4.5	*	*	11.6	*	11.6
To get married	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.3	*	11.2
Pregnancy/to have children	15.9	32.1	6.7	4.7	6.9	*	68.8	*	70.8
To look after family, house or someone else	*	*	*	*	*	*	7.4	*	7.6
Moved house/spouse transferred	*	*	*	*	*	*	10.7	*	10.9
Travel	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.9	*	7.0
Other	*	*	*	*	*	*	5.3	*	5.3
Total	30.5	54.3	17.6	21.0	17.6	10.0	150.9	5.9	156.8

(a) Includes miners and quarry workers. (b) Comprises administrative, executive and managerial; farmers, fisherpersons and timbergetters; and transport and communication.

TABLE 6. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : TIME SINCE PREVIOUS JOB AND OCCUPATION IN PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Occupation in previous job									
Previous job less than 20 years ago									
Time since previous job (years)	Profession- ional, technical, etc.	Clerical	Sales	Trades and production- process workers and labourers, n.e.c.(a)	Service, sport and recreation	Other(b)	Total	Previous job 20 or more years ago	Total
1-2	11.9	13.3	6.0	8.7	7.1	3.5	50.5	..	50.5
3-4	6.5	10.3	4.9	5.0	*	} 5.4 {	31.8	..	31.8
5-9	8.1	17.4	3.7	4.8	5.5		42.1	..	42.1
10-19	4.0	13.3	*	*	*		26.5	..	26.5
20 or more	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.9	5.9
Total	30.5	54.3	17.6	21.0	17.6	10.0	150.9	5.9	156.8

(a) Includes miners and quarry workers. (b) Comprises administrative, executive and managerial; farmers, fisherpersons and timbergetters; and transport and communication.

TABLE 7. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : REASON LEFT PREVIOUS JOB AND AGE, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Reason left previous job	Age group (years)					Total
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	*	5.1	*	*	*	11.8
Returned to studies	3.7	5.2	*	*	*	9.8
Retired/did not want to work any longer	*	*	*	*	*	6.2
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	3.8		*	*	4.7
Own ill health or injury	*	*	3.9	4.4		11.6
To get married	*	3.7	4.1	*	*	11.2
Pregnancy/to have children	5.1	45.9	17.9	*	*	70.8
To look after family, house or someone else	*	3.7	*	*	*	7.6
Moved house/spouse transferred	*	5.2	4.5	*	*	10.9
Travel	*	3.6	*	*	*	7.0
Other	*	4.5		*	*	5.3
Total	14.2	80.6	43.9	12.2	6.0	156.8

TABLE 8. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : REASON LEFT PREVIOUS JOB AND FAMILY STATUS, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Reason left previous job	Family status							
	Member of a family							Total
	Husband or wife			Not-married family head	Child of family head	Total(a)	Not a member of a family	Not family coded
	With children aged 0-14 present	Without children aged 0-14 present	Total					
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	5.3	*	8.1	*	*	9.7	*	*
Returned to studies	*	*	*	*	*	5.2	3.7	*
Retired/did not want to work any longer	*	*	4.7	*	*	4.8	*	*
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	*	*	*	*	4.1	*	*
Own ill health or injury	4.8	4.1	9.0	*	*	9.8	*	*
To get married	8.4	*	10.3	*	*	10.8	*	*
Pregnancy/to have children	61.1	*	61.2	6.4	*	67.9	*	*
To look after family, house or someone else	4.5	*	5.9	*	*	6.9	*	*
Moved house/spouse transferred	7.1	*	8.2	*	*	10.5	*	*
Travel	*	*	*	*	*	5.6	*	*
Other	*	*	*	*	*	3.8	*	*
Total	101.6	18.2	119.8	14.2	4.3	139.1	10.2	7.5

(a) Includes other relative of family head.

TABLE 9. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : REASON LEFT PREVIOUS JOB AND TIME SINCE PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Reason left previous job	Time since previous job (years)					Total
	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-19	20 or more	
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	3.8	3.7	3.8	*	*	11.8
Returned to studies	5.9	*	*	*	*	9.8
Retired/did not want to work any longer	3.7	*	*	*	*	6.2
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	*	*	*	*	4.7
Own ill health or injury	6.5	*	*	*	*	11.6
To get married	*	*	*	4.7	*	11.2
Pregnancy/to have children	18.5	12.6	22.7	15.0	*	70.8
To look after family, house or someone else	3.9	*	3.5	*	*	7.6
Moved house/spouse transferred	5.2	*	5.5	*	*	10.9
Travel	4.5	*	*	*	*	7.0
Other	4.6	*	*	*	*	5.3
Total	50.5	31.8	42.1	26.5	5.9	156.8

TABLE 10. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : REASON LEFT PREVIOUS JOB AND WHETHER HAD GAINED AN EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION SINCE PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Reason left previous job	Whether had gained an educational qualification since previous job		Total(a)
	Had gained an educational qualification since previous job	Had not gained an educational qualification since previous job	
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	*	10.4	11.8
Returned to studies	5.0	4.8	9.8
Retired/did not want to work any longer	*	6.0	6.2
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	4.1	4.7
Own ill health or injury	*	11.0	11.6
To get married	*	11.1	11.2
Pregnancy/to have children	3.7	67.1	70.8
To look after family, house or someone else	*	7.0	7.6
Moved house/spouse transferred	*	10.1	10.9
Travel	*	6.3	7.0
Other	*	4.6	5.3
Total	14.2	142.6	156.8

(a) Includes persons who never attended school and persons still at school.

TABLE 11. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : REASON LEFT PREVIOUS JOB AND MAIN REASON FOR WANTING TO WORK AGAIN, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Reason left previous job	Main reason for wanting to work again							Other(a)	Total
	Completed studies	Financial reasons	Returned after own illness or injury	Suitable childcare available	Children gone to school/no longer needed to look after children	Boredom/needed another interest	To help in family business/bought business		
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	*	6.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	11.8
Returned to studies	3.6	5.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.8
Retired/did not want to work any longer	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.2
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.7
Own ill health or injury	*	6.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	11.6
To get married	*	7.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	11.2
Pregnancy/to have children	*	42.4	*	*	7.1	7.5	4.1	6.2	70.8
To look after family, house or someone else	*	5.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	7.6
Moved house/spouse transferred	*	8.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	10.9
Travel	*	4.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	7.0
Other	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5.3
Total	5.8	95.5	4.1	4.1	10.7	14.3	8.2	14.2	156.8

(a) Includes returned after illness or injury of another person; returned from travel; returned from unpaid leave; and spouse transferred.

TABLE 12. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT WHEN LEFT PREVIOUS JOB AND HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION GAINED SINCE PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Educational attainment when left previous job	Highest educational qualification gained since previous job				Total(b)(c)
	Had gained an educational qualification since previous job		Had not gained an educational qualification since previous job		
	Degree	Trade; technical or other certificate		Total(a)	
With post-school qualifications(d)	*	*	7.1	50.3	57.4
Degree	*	*	*	11.2	12.7
Trade; technical or other certificate	*	*	4.7	37.7	42.4
Without post-school qualifications(b)	*	3.9	7.1	92.3	99.4
Attended highest level of secondary school available	*	*	*	18.1	21.3
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	*	*	3.9	74.2	78.1
Left at age—					
16 or over	*	*	*	29.2	31.1
15 or under	*	*	*	45.0	47.0
Total(c)	4.3	6.7	14.2	142.6	156.8

(a) Includes persons who had obtained an other educational qualification. (b) Includes persons who never attended school. (c) Includes persons still at school.
(d) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications.

TABLE 13. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : FAMILY STATUS AND TIME SINCE PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Family status	Time since previous job (years)					Total
	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-19	20 or more	
Member of a family(a)	42.6	27.4	39.4	24.5	5.1	139.1
Husband or wife	35.6	22.7	34.7	22.2	4.5	119.8
With children aged 0-14 present	27.9	18.6	31.1	21.2	*	101.6
Without children aged 0-14 present	7.8	4.1	3.6	*	*	18.2
Not-married family head	*	3.9	4.6	*	*	14.2
Child of family head	3.6	*	*	*	*	4.3
Not a member of a family	5.0	*	*	*	*	10.2
Not family coded	4.6					7.5
Total	50.5	31.8	42.1	26.5	5.9	156.8

(a) Includes other relative of family head.

TABLE 14. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : TIME SPENT OUT OF THE LABOUR FORCE SINCE PREVIOUS JOB AND TIME SINCE PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Time spent out of the labour force since previous job (years)	Time since previous job (years)					Total
	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-19	20 or more	
1-2	50.5	8.4	*	*	*	60.8
3-4	..	23.4	4.6	*	*	28.0
5-9	..	..	36.0	*	*	38.1
10-19	..	..	..	24.1	*	25.0
20 or more	..	..	..	..	5.0	5.0
Total	50.5	31.8	42.1	26.5	5.9	156.8

TABLE 15. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : MAIN ACTIVITY WHILE OUT OF THE LABOUR FORCE SINCE PREVIOUS JOB AND TIME SINCE PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Main activity while out of the labour force since previous job	Time since previous job (years)					Total
	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-19	20 or more	
Housewife/home duties	29.4	23.7	37.9	25.6	5.9	122.6
Attended an educational institution	7.4	5.1	*	*	*	13.3
Retired/voluntarily inactive	*	*	*	*	*	4.5
Own illness or injury	5.4	*	*	*	*	7.7
Travelled	4.4	*	*	*	*	5.8
Total(a)	50.5	31.8	42.1	26.5	5.9	156.8

(a) Includes unpaid leave; worked in unpaid voluntary job; and other.

TABLE 16. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION GAINED SINCE PREVIOUS JOB AND TIME SINCE PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Highest educational qualification gained since previous job	Time since previous job (years)					Total
	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-19	20 or more	
Had gained an educational qualification since previous job(a)	5.0	4.3	4.9	*	*	14.2
Degree	3.5		*	*	*	4.3
Trade; technical or other certificate	3.7		*	*	*	6.7
Had not gained an educational qualification since previous job	45.5	27.6	39.5	24.3	5.8	142.6
Total(b)	50.5	31.8	42.1	26.5	5.9	156.8

(a) Includes persons who had obtained an other educational qualification. (b) Includes persons who never attended school and persons still at school.

TABLE 17. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : MAIN REASON FOR WANTING TO WORK AGAIN AND TIME SINCE PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Main reason for wanting to work again	Time since previous job (years)					Total
	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-19	20 or more	
Completed studies	4.9		*	*	*	5.8
Financial reasons	31.1	20.3	25.7	15.6	*	95.5
Returned after own illness or injury	3.8		*	*	*	4.1
Suitable childcare available	*	*	*	*	*	4.1
Children gone to school/no longer needed to look after children	*	*	3.9	4.9	*	10.7
Boredom/needed another interest	4.9	*	4.4	*	*	14.3
To help in family business/bought business	*	*	4.1	*	*	8.2
Other(a)	4.9	*	3.9	*	*	14.2
Total	50.5	31.8	42.1	26.5	5.9	156.8

(a) Includes returned after illness or injury of another person; returned from travel; returned from unpaid leave; and spouse transferred.

TABLE 18. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE: MAIN ACTIVITY WHILE OUT OF THE LABOUR FORCE SINCE PREVIOUS JOB AND MAIN ACTIVITY JUST AFTER LEFT PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Main activity while out of the labour force since previous job	Main activity just after left previous job						Total
	Housewife/home duties	Attended an educational institution	Retired/voluntarily inactive	Own illness or injury	Travelled	Other(a)	
Housewife/home duties	115.6	*	*	*	*	*	122.6
Attended an educational institution	*	10.7	*	*	*	*	13.3
Retired/voluntarily inactive	*	*	3.9	*	*	*	4.5
Own illness or injury	*	*	*	7.0	*	*	7.7
Travelled	*	*	*	*	4.9	*	5.8
Total(b)	116.4	11.2	5.0	8.8	8.2	7.2	156.8

(a) Includes unpaid leave; worked in unpaid voluntary job; and looked for work. (b) Includes unpaid leave; worked in unpaid voluntary job; and other.

TABLE 19. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE: MAIN REASON FOR WANTING TO WORK AGAIN AND FAMILY STATUS, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Main reason for wanting to work again	Family status								Total
	Member of a family						Not a member of a family	Not family coded	
	Husband or wife			Not-married family head	Child of family head	Total(a)			
	With children aged 0-14 present	Without children aged 0-14 present	Total						
Completed studies	*	*	*	*	*	3.5	*	*	5.8
Financial reasons	61.2	7.8	69.0	11.8	*	84.5	6.9	4.1	95.5
Returned after own illness or injury	*	*	*	*	*	3.5	*	*	4.1
Suitable childcare available	4.0	*	4.0	*	*	4.0	*	*	4.1
Children gone to school/no longer needed to look after children	9.8	*	10.0	*	*	10.4	*	*	10.7
Boredom/needed another interest	9.8	*	12.9	*	*	13.3	*	*	14.3
To help in family business/bought business	5.3	*	7.1	*	*	7.5	*	*	8.2
Other(b)	8.5	*	10.8	*	*	12.3	*	*	14.2
Total	101.6	18.2	119.8	14.2	4.3	139.1	10.2	7.5	156.8

(a) Includes other relative of family head. (b) Includes returned after illness or injury of another person; returned from travel; returned from unpaid leave; and spouse transferred.

TABLE 20. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE WORKING: OCCUPATION IN PREVIOUS JOB, FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME STATUS IN PREVIOUS JOB, OCCUPATION AND WHETHER WORKING FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Occupation and full-time or part-time status in previous job	Occupation						Whether working full-time or part-time		Total
	Professional, technical, etc.	Clerical	Sales	Trades and production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.(a)	Service, sport and recreation	Other(b)	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	
Previous job less than 20 years ago	22.5	28.1	16.5	13.1	20.0	7.3	36.6	70.8	107.4
Professional, technical, etc	16.9	*	*	*	*	*	9.1	15.2	24.3
Clerical	*	19.6	5.6	*	6.3	*	11.3	27.7	39.0
Sales	*	*	5.3	*	*	*	3.5	9.1	12.7
Trades and production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.(a)	*	*	*	6.4	*	*	6.1	7.0	13.2
Service, sport and recreation	*	*	*	*	5.4	*	3.5	8.0	11.5
Other(b)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	3.8	6.9
Full-time	18.6	22.7	13.6	10.9	16.2	6.0	32.6	55.6	88.1
Part-time	*	5.2	*	*	3.5	*	3.5	13.7	17.2
Varied/did not know	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Previous job 20 or more years ago	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.4
Total	22.9	28.7	16.9	13.7	21.3	8.2	37.8	74.1	111.8

(a) Includes miners and quarry workers. (b) Comprises administrative, executive and managerial; farmers, fisherpersons and timbergetters; and transport and communication.

**TABLE 21. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE WORKING:
FAMILY STATUS AND WHETHER WORKING FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME, MAY 1985**
(' 000)

Family status	Whether working full-time or part-time		Total
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	
Member of a family(a)	30.6	69.1	99.7
Husband or wife	25.1	62.7	87.8
With children aged 0-14 present	19.6	53.7	73.3
Without children aged 0-14 present	5.5	9.0	14.5
Not-married family head	*	5.0	7.8
Child of family head	*	*	3.7
Not a member of a family	4.6	*	7.6
Not family coded	*	*	4.5
Total	37.8	74.1	111.8

(a) Includes other relative of family head.

**TABLE 22. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE WORKING:
MAIN REASON FOR WANTING TO WORK AGAIN AND WHETHER WORKING FULL-TIME
OR PART-TIME, MAY 1985**
(' 000)

Main reason for wanting to work again	Whether working full-time or part-time		Total
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	
Completed studies	4.4	*	5.1
Financial reasons	20.8	41.5	62.4
Returned after own illness or injury	*	*	*
Suitable childcare available	*	*	*
Children gone to school/no longer needed to look after children	*	4.8	6.9
Boredom/needed another interest	*	9.4	11.5
To help in family business/bought business	*	6.3	8.2
Other(a)	4.2	8.5	12.7
Total	37.8	74.1	111.8

(a) Includes returned after illness or injury of another person; returned from travel; returned from unpaid leave; and spouse transferred.

**TABLE 23. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE WORKING:
DETAILS OF JOB AND AGE, MAY 1985**
(' 000)

	Age group (years)					Total
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	
Occupation—						
Professional, technical, etc.	*	13.5	5.5	*	*	22.9
Clerical	*	16.9	6.3	*	*	28.7
Sales	*	8.9	4.9	*	*	16.9
Trades and production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c., and miners and quarry workers	*	5.4	4.2	*	*	13.7
Service, sport and recreation	*	9.9	7.3	*	*	21.3
Other(a)	*	*	3.8	*	*	8.2
Whether working full-time or part-time—						
Full-time workers	4.3	18.8	10.3	3.6	*	37.8
Part-time workers	5.3	38.3	21.8	5.3	*	74.1
Status of worker—						
Employers	*	4.9		*	*	5.8
Self-employed	*	8.0	3.9	*	*	15.5
Wage and salary earners	7.9	45.6	25.7	7.1	*	88.8
Unpaid family helpers	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	9.6	57.1	32.1	8.8	4.2	111.8

(a) Comprises administrative, executive and managerial; farmers, fisherpersons and timbergetters; and transport and communication.

TABLE 24. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE WORKING IN WAGE AND SALARY EARNER JOBS: METHOD OF JOB ATTAINMENT AND WHETHER WORKING FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Method of job attainment	Whether working full-time or part-time		Total
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	
Jobseeker approached employer	23.5	35.7	59.2
Had no prior knowledge that job was available	9.8	11.6	21.4
First step taken—			
Contacted likely employers	6.0	7.3	13.3
Other(a)	3.7	4.3	8.1
Had prior knowledge that job was available	13.7	24.1	37.8
Through newspaper advertisements	5.6	9.9	15.5
Through friends/relatives/company contacts	*	11.2	14.4
Other(b)	4.9	*	7.9
Employer approached jobseeker	6.3	22.9	29.2
Total(c)	30.0	58.8	88.8

(a) Includes tendered/advertised for work. (b) Includes through CES; through private employment agency; and through welfare agency or organisation. (c) Includes persons who were paid in kind.

TABLE 25. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE WORKING IN WAGE AND SALARY EARNER JOBS: USUAL GROSS WEEKLY PAY(a) AND WHETHER WORKING FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME, MAY 1985

Usual gross weekly pay(a)(\$)	Whether working full-time or part-time		Total
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	
	— ' 000—		
Under 40	*	8.9	8.9
40 and under 80	*	13.3	13.3
80 and under 120	*	10.1	10.5
120 and under 160	*	9.1	10.5
160 and under 200	} 4.4 {	6.0	7.4
200 and under 240		3.7	6.6
240 and under 280	5.9	*	7.3
280 and under 320	4.7	*	5.5
320 and under 360	3.7	*	4.4
360 and over	8.1	*	8.8
Did not know	*	3.9	5.2
Total(b)	30.0	58.8	88.8
	—dollars—		
Average usual gross weekly pay(c)	315.2	114.6	183.3

(a) Before tax or anything else was taken out. (b) Includes persons who worked for payment in kind. (c) Excludes persons who worked for payment in kind and persons who did not know.

TABLE 26. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE LOOKING FOR WORK: FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME STATUS IN PREVIOUS JOB AND WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Full-time or part-time status in previous job	Whether looking for full-time or part-time work		Total
	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	
Previous job less than 20 years ago(a)	16.7	26.9	43.5
Full-time	15.7	23.1	38.8
Part-time	*	3.5	4.5
Total(b)	17.7	27.4	45.0

(a) Includes varied/did not know. (b) Includes previous job 20 or more years ago.

TABLE 27. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE LOOKING FOR WORK: FAMILY STATUS AND WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK, MAY 1985
(' 000)

Family status	Whether looking for full-time or part-time work		Total
	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	
Member of a family(a)	14.0	25.4	39.3
Husband or wife	11.5	20.6	32.0
With children aged 0-14 present	9.5	18.8	28.3
Without children aged 0-14 present	*	*	3.7
Not-married family head	*	4.7	6.4
Total(b)	17.7	27.4	45.0

(a) Includes child of family head and other relative of family head. (b) Includes not a member of a family and not family coded.

ADDITIONAL TABLES

The following is a list of additional tables of results from the survey which are available to users on request. These tables show a selection of estimates on an Australia-wide basis. Tables disaggregated by State/Territory and other tables may also be available. Most tables are dissected by sex.

Civilian population aged 15 and over

Whether in the labour force and whether had re-entered the labour force—

- A1 Birthplace and year of arrival
- A2 Marital status and age
- A3 Family status

Persons who had re-entered the labour force

- A4 Whether working or looking for work and all steps taken to find work during the last twelve months
- A5 Occupation in previous job, birthplace and year of arrival
- A6 Family status and age
- Reason left previous job—
- A7 Birthplace and year of arrival
- A8 Time in previous job
- Time since previous job—
- A9 Birthplace and year of arrival
- A10 Full-time or part-time status in previous job and time in previous job
- Main activity while out of the labour force since previous job—
- A11 Family status
- A12 Birthplace and year of arrival
- A13 Main reason for wanting to work again
- Main reason for wanting to work again—
- A14 Birthplace and year of arrival
- A15 Educational attainment at May 1985
- A16 Main difficulty in finding work during the last twelve months
- Time spent out of the labour force since previous job—
- A17 Family status
- A18 Main difficulty in finding work during the last twelve months
- A19 Birthplace and year of arrival
- Birthplace and year of arrival—
- A20 Main difficulty in finding work during the last twelve months
- A21 Time in previous job

Persons who had re-entered the labour force and were working

- Occupation—
- A22 Time in previous job
- A23 Time since previous job
- A24 Birthplace and year of arrival
- A25 Marital status

Persons who had re-entered the labour force and were working in wage and salary earner jobs

- Method of job attainment—
- A26 Age
- A27 Usual gross weekly pay
- A28 Occupation
- A29 Family status
- A30 Birthplace and year of arrival

Persons who had re-entered the labour force and were looking for work

- Whether looking for full-time or part-time work—
- A31 Age
- A32 Birthplace and year of arrival

TECHNICAL NOTE

Estimation procedure

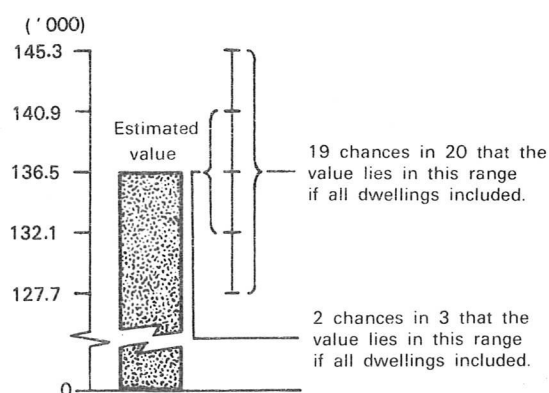
The estimates are derived from the population survey by use of a ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population for each capital city and remainder of state by age and sex, rather than to the corresponding distribution 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 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.

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 the following page. Since they are averages based on calculations for a limited number of past surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics these figures will not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate but they will provide an indication of its magnitude.

4. An example of the calculation and the use of standard errors in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 1 shows the estimated number of females in Australia who had re-entered the labour force was 136,500. Since this estimate is between 100,000 and 200,000 the standard error for Australia will be between 3,950 and 5,300 in the standard error table and can be approximated as 4,400 (rounded to the nearest 100). 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 in the range 132,100 to 140,900 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range 127,700 to 145,300. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.



5. As can be seen from the standard error table, *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 standard error table 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. Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. The formula for the relative standard error (RSE) of a proportion is given below:

$$RSE(x/y) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 + [RSE(y)]^2}$$

7. Considering the example from paragraph 4 above, of the 136,500 females who had re-entered the labour force only 39,300 or 28.8 per cent were looking for work. The standard error of 39,300 is approximately 2,600 so the relative standard error is 6.6 per cent. The relative standard error for 136,500 is 3.2 per cent. Applying the above formula, the relative standard error of the proportion is $\sqrt{(6.6)^2 + (3.2)^2}$ or 5.8 per cent, giving a standard error for the proportion (28.8 per cent) of 1.7 percentage points. Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of females who had re-entered the labour force who were looking for work was between 27.1 per cent and 30.5 per cent and nineteen chances in twenty the proportion was within the range 25.4 per cent to 32.2 per cent.

8. 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 subpopulations it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

9. 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 the coding and processing of 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 only a sample.

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

[illegible]

